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WHITE ROSE  
AND RED



THE HISTORY OF  
"ST. PAUL"



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WHITE ROSE AND RED

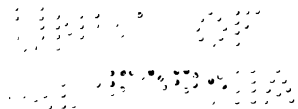


*Bushanan, Robert William 23*

# WHITE ROSE AND RED

**A Love Story**

**BY THE AUTHOR OF "ST. ABE"**



**STRAHAN & CO.**  
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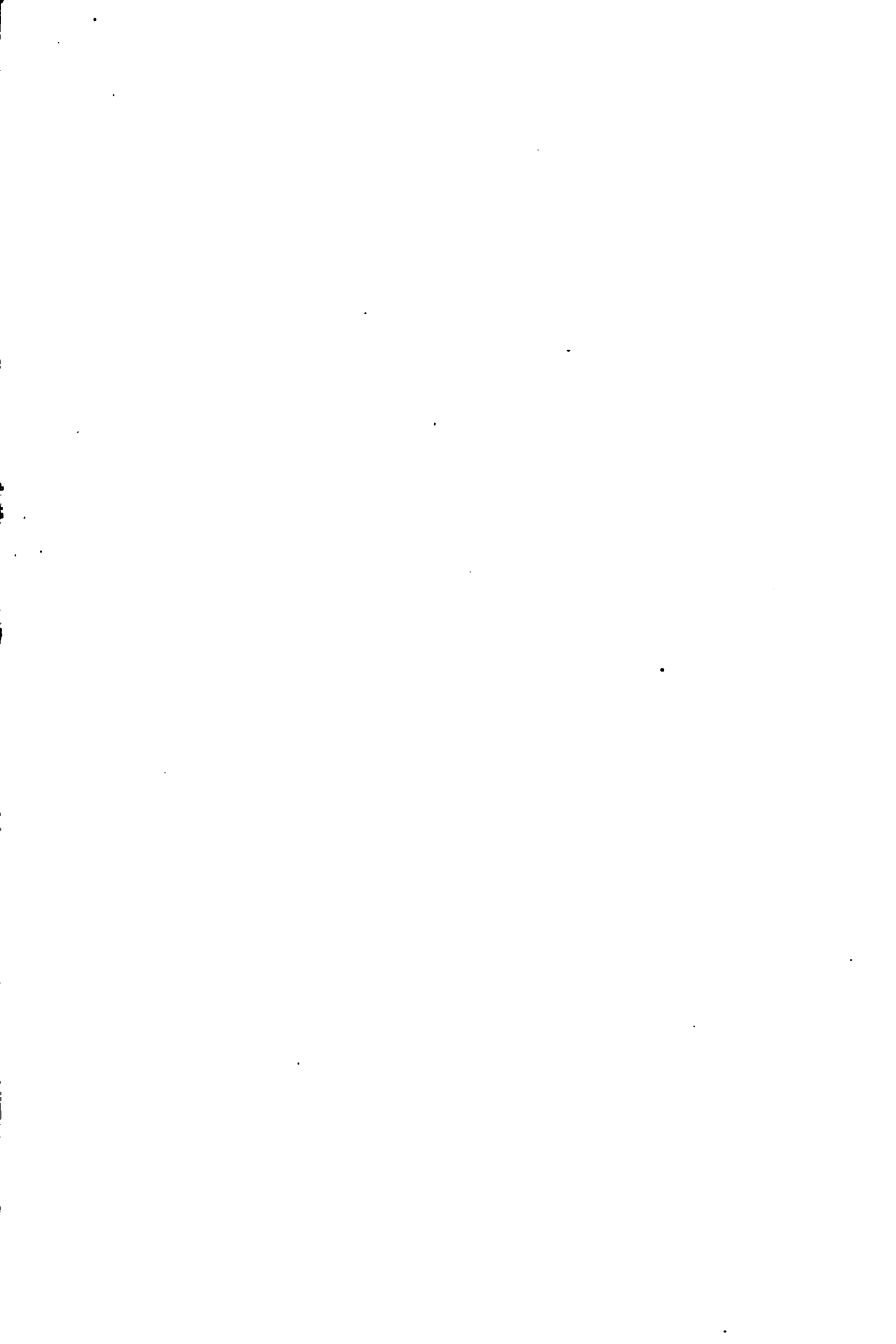
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TO VINDICATE  
ABOLITION

KW

TO  
WALT WHITMAN  
AND  
ALEXANDER GARDINER,  
WITH ALL FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON,  
I dedicate  
THIS POEM.

M238331



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INVOCATION.

---

“KNOW’ST THOU THE LAND?”

I.

*Know'st thou the Land, where the lian-flower  
Burgeons the trapper's forest bower,  
Where o'er his head the acacia sweet  
Shaketh her scented locks in the heat,  
Where the hang-bird swings to a blossom-cloud,  
And the bobolink sings merry and loud?  
Know'st thou the Land?*

*O there! O there,  
Might I with thee, O friend of my heart, repair!*

II.

*Know'st thou the Land where the golden Day  
Flowers into glory and glows away,  
While the Night springs up, as an Indian girl  
Clad in purple and hung with pearl!*

Copy the  
Y. H. S. L. S.  
L. S. S. S. S.

I

INVOCATION.

*And the white Moon's heaven rolls apart,  
 Like a bell-shaped flower with a golden heart,—  
 Know'st thou the Land?*

*O there! O there,  
 Might I with thee, O Maid of my Soul, repair!*

III.

*Know'st thou the Land where the woods are free,  
 And the prairie rolls as a mighty sea,  
 And over its waves the sunbeams shine,  
 While on its misty horizon-line  
 Dark and dim the buffaloes stand,  
 And the hunter is gliding gun in hand?  
 Know'st thou it well?*

*O there! O there,  
 Might I, with those whose Souls are free, repair*

IV.

*Know'st thou the Land where the sun-bird's song  
 Filleth the forest all day long,  
 Where all is music and mirth and bloom,  
 Where the cedar sprinkles a soft perfume,*

INVOCATION.

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*Where life is gay as a glancing stream,  
And all things answer the Poet's dream ?  
Know'st thou the Land ?*

*O there ! O there,  
Might I, with him who loves my lays, repair !*

V.

*Know'st thou the Land where the swampy brakes  
Are full of the nests of the rattlesnakes,  
Where round old Grizzly the wild bees hum,  
While squatting he sucks at their honeycomb,  
Where crocodiles crouch and the wild cat springs,  
And the mildest ills are mosquito stings ?  
Know'st thou the Land ?*

*O there ! O there,  
Might I, with adverse Critics, straight repair !*

VI.

*Know'st thou the Land where wind and sun  
Smile on all races of men—save one :  
Where (strange and wild as a sunset proud  
Streak'd with the bars of a thunder-cloud)*



*Alone and silent the Red Man lies,  
Sees the cold stars coming, and sinks, and dies ?  
Know'st thou the Land ?*

*O there ! O there,  
Might I to wet his poor parch'd lips repair !*

## VII.

*Lock up thy gold, and take thy flight  
To the mighty Land of the red and white ;  
A ditty of love I would have thee hear,  
While daylight dies, and the Night comes near  
With her black feet wet from the western sea,  
And the Red Man dies, with his eyes on thee !  
Fast to that Land, ere his last footprints there  
Are beaten down by alien feet, repair !*

**Part I.**

**THE CAPTURE OF ÉUREKA HART.**



I.

NATURA NATURANS.

DAWN breaking. Thro' his dew-veil smiles the  
sun,

And under him doth run  
On the green grass and in the forest brake  
Bright beast and speckled snake ;  
Birds on the bough and insects in the ray  
Gladden ; and it is day.

What is this lying on the thymy steep,  
Where yellow bees hum deep,  
And the rich air is warm as living breath ?  
What soft shape slumbereth  
Naked and dark, and glows in a green nest,  
Low-breathing in bright rest ?

Is it the spotted panther, lying there  
Lissome and light and fair?  
Is it the snake, with glittering skin coil'd round  
And gleaming on the ground?  
Is it some wondrous bird whose eyrie lies  
Between the earth and skies?  
'Tis none of these, but something stranger far—  
Strange as a fallen star!  
A mortal birth, a marvel heavenly-eyed,  
With dark pink breast and side!  
And as she lies the wild deer comes most meek  
To smell her scented cheek,  
And creeps away; the yeanning ounce lies near,  
And watches with no fear;  
The serpent rustles past, with touch as light  
As rose-leaves, rippling bright  
Into the grass beyond; while yonder, on high,  
A black speck in the sky,  
The crested eagle hovers, with sharp sight  
Facing the flood of light.

What living shape is this who sleeping lies  
    Watch'd by all wondering eyes  
Of beast and speckled snake and flying bird?  
    Softly she sleeps, unstirr'd  
By wind or sun ; and since she first fell there  
    Her raven locks of hair  
Have loosen'd, shaken round her in a shower,  
    Whence, like a poppy flower  
With dark leaves and a tongue to brightness  
    tipt,  
    She lies vermillion-lipt.  
Bare to the waist, her head upon her arm,  
    Coil'd on a couch most warm  
Of balsam and of hemlock, whose soft scent  
    With her warm breath is blent.  
Around her brow a circlet of pure gold,  
    With antique letters scroll'd,  
Burns in the sun-ray, and with gold also  
    Her wrists and ancles glow.  
Around her neck the threaded wild cat's teeth

Hang white as pearl ; beneath  
Her bosoms heave, and in the space between,  
Dusky tattoo'd, is seen  
A figure small as of a pine-bark brand  
Held blazing in a hand.  
Her skirt of azure, wrought with braid and thread  
In quaint signs yellow and red,  
Scarce reaches to her dark and dimpled knee,  
Leaving it bare and free.  
Below, mocassins red as blood are wound,  
With gold and purple bound ;—  
So that red-footed like the stork she lies,  
With softly shrouded eyes,  
Whose brightness seems with heavy lustrous  
dew  
To pierce the dark lids thro'.  
Her eyelids closed, her popped lips apart,  
And her quick eager heart  
Stirring her warm frame, as a bird unseen  
Stirs the warm lilac-sheen,

She slumbers,—and of all beneath the skies  
Seemeth the last to rise.

She stirs—she wakens—now, O birds, sing loud  
Under the golden cloud !

She stirs—she wakens—now, O wild beast,  
spring,

Blooms grow, breeze blow, birds sing !

She wakens in her nest and looks around,  
And listens to the sound ;

Her eyelids blink against the heavens' bright  
beam,

Still dim and dark with dream,

Her breathing quickens, and her cheek gleams  
red,

And round her shining head

Glossy her black hair glistens. Now she stands,  
And with her little hands

Shades her soft orbs and upward at the sky  
She gazeth quietly ;



Then at one bound springs with a sudden song  
The forest-track along.

Thro' the transparent roof of twining leaves,  
Where the deep sunlight weaves  
Threads like a spider's-web of silvern white,  
Faint falls the dreamy light  
Down the gray bolls and boughs that intervene,  
On to the carpet green  
Prinkt with all wondrous flowers, on emerald  
brakes  
Where the still speckled snakes  
Crawl shaded ; and above the shaded ground,  
Amid the deep-sea sound  
Of the high branches, bright birds scream and fly  
And chattering parrots cry ;  
And everywhere beneath them in the bowers  
Float things like living flowers,  
Hovering and settling ; and here and there  
The blue gleams deep and fair

Thro' the high parted boughs, while serpent-  
bright

Slips thro' the golden light,  
Startling the cool deep shades that brood around,  
And floating to the ground,  
With multitudinous living motes at play  
Like dust in the rich ray.

Hither for shelter from the burning sun

Hath stolen the beauteous one,  
And thro' the ferns and flowers she runs, and  
plucks

Berries blue-black, and sucks  
The fallen orange. Where the sunbeams blink

She lieth down to drink  
Out of the deep pool, and her image sweet  
Floats dim below her feet,  
Up-peering thro' the lilies yellow and white  
And green leaves where the bright

Great Dragon-fly doth pause. With burning  
breath

She looks and gladdeneth.

She holds her hands, the shape holds out hands too;

She stoops more near to view,

And it too stoopeth looking wild and sly;

Whereat, with merry cry,

She starteth up, and fluttering onward flies

With gladness in her eyes.

But who is this who all alone lies deep

In heavy-lidded sleep?

A dark smile hovering on his bearded lips,

His hunter's gun he grips,

And snores aloud where snakes and lizards run,

His mighty limbs i' the sun

And his fair face within the shadow. See!

His breath comes heavily

Like one's tired out with toil; and when in fear

The Indian maid comes near,

And bendeth over him most wondering,  
 The bright birds scream and sing,  
 The motes are madder in the ray, the snake  
 Glides luminous in the brake,  
 The sunlight flashes fiery overhead,  
 The wood-cat with eyes red  
 Crawleth close by, with her lithe crimson tongue  
 Licking her clumsy young,  
 And, deep within the open prairie nigh,  
 Hawks swoop and struck birds cry !

Dark maiden, what is he thou lookest on ?  
 O ask not, but begone !  
 Go ! for his eyes are blue, his skin is white,  
 And giant-like his height.  
 To him thou wouldst appear a tiny thing,  
 Some small bird on the wing,  
 Some small deer to be kill'd ere it could fly,  
 Or to be *tamed*, and die !—

O look not, look not, in the hunter's face,  
Thou maid of the red race,  
He is a tame thing, thou art weak and wild,  
Thou lovely forest-child !  
How should the deer by the great deer-hound  
walk,  
The wood-dove seek the hawk,—  
Away ! away ! lest he should wake from rest,  
Fly, sun-bird, to thy nest.

Why doth she start, and backward softly creep ?  
He stirreth in his sleep—  
Why doth she steal away with wondering eyes ?  
He stretches limbs, and sighs.  
Peace ! she hath fled—and he is all alone,  
While, with a yawn and groan  
The man sits up, rubs eyelids, grips his gun,  
Stares heavenward at the sun,  
And cries aloud, stretching himself anew :  
“*Broad day*,—by all that's blue !”

II.

EUREKA.

ON the shores of the Atlantic,  
Where the surge rolls fierce and frantic,  
Where the mad winds cry and wrestle  
With each frail and bird-like vessel,—  
Down in Maine, where human creatures  
Are amphibious in their natures,  
And the babies, sons or daughters,  
Float like fishes in the waters,—  
Down in Maine, by the Atlantic,  
Grew the Harts, of race gigantic,  
And the tallest and the strongest  
Was Eureka Hart, the youngest.

Like a bear-cub as a baby,  
Rough, and rear'd as roughly as may be,

He had rudely grown and thriven  
Till, a giant, six foot seven,  
Bold and ready for all comers,  
He had reach'd full thirty summers.  
All his brethren, thrifty farmers,  
Had espoused their rural charmers,  
Settling down once and for ever  
By the Muskeosquash River :  
Thrifty men, devout believers,  
Of the tribe of human *beavers* ;  
Life to them, with years increasing,  
Was an instinct never-ceasing  
To build dwellings multifarious  
In the fashion called gregarious,  
To be honest in their station,  
And increase the population  
Of the beavers ! They, moreover,  
Tho' their days were cast in clover,  
Had the instinct of *secreting* ;  
Toiling hard while time was fleeting,

To lay by in secret places,  
[Like the bee and squirrel races,]  
Quiet stores of yellow money,  
[Which is human nuts and honey.]

Tho' no flowers of dazzling beauty  
In their ploughshare line of duty  
Rose and bloom'd, still, rural daisies,  
Such as every village raises,  
From the thin soil of their spirits  
Grew and throve. Their gentle merits  
Free of any gleam of passion,  
Flower'd in an instructive fashion.  
Quite convinced that life was fleeting  
Every week they went to meeting,  
Met and prayed to God in dozens,  
Uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins,  
Joining there in adoration,  
All the beaver population !



From this family one creature,  
Taller and more fair of feature,  
Err'd and wander'd, slightly lacking  
In the building, breeding, packing,  
Tribal-instinct ; and would never  
Settle down by wood or river,  
Build a house or take a woman  
In the pleasant fashion common  
To his race ; evincing rather  
Traces of some fiercer father,  
Panther-like, to hunting given  
In the eye of the blue heaven !  
When beneath the mother's bosom  
His great life began to blossom,  
Haply round her winds were crying,  
O'er her head the white clouds flying,  
At her feet the wild waves flowing,  
All things moving, coming, going,  
And the motion and vibration  
Reach'd the thing in embryoation,

On its unborn soul conferring  
Endless impulse to be stirring,—  
To be ever wandering, racing,  
Bird-like, wave-like, chased or chasing !  
Born beside the stormy ocean,  
'Twas the giant's earliest notion  
To go roaming on the billow,  
With a damp plank for a pillow.  
In his youth he went as sailor  
With the skipper of a whaler ;  
But in later life he better  
Loved to feel no sort of fetter,  
All his own free pathway mapping  
In the forest,—hunting, trapping.  
By great rivers, thro' vast valleys,  
As thro' some enchanted palace  
Ever bright and ever changing,  
Many years he went a-ranging,—  
Free as any wave, and only  
Lonely as a cloud is lonely,

Floating in a void, surveying  
Endless tracts for endless straying.

Pause a minute and regard him !  
Years of hardships have not marr'd him.  
Limbs made perfect, iron-solder'd,  
Narrow-hipp'd and mighty-shoulder'd,  
Whisker'd, bearded, strong and stately,  
With a smile that lurks sedately  
In still eyes of a cold azure,  
Never lighting to sheer pleasure,  
Stands he there, 'mid the green trees  
Like the Greek god, Herakles.

Stay, nor let the bright allusion  
Lead your spirit to confusion.  
Tho' a wanderer, and a creature  
Almost as a god in feature,  
This man's nature was as surely  
Soulless and instinctive purely,

As the natures of those others,  
His sedater beaver-brothers ;  
Nothing brilliant, bright, or frantic,  
Nothing maidens style romantic,  
Flash'd his slow brain morn or night  
Into spiritual light !

As waves run, and as clouds wander,  
With small power to feel or ponder,  
Roam'd this thing in human clothing,  
Intellectually—nothing !  
Further in his soul receding,  
Certain signs of beaver-breeding  
Kept his homely wits in see-saw ;  
Part was Jacob, part was Esau ;  
No revolter ; a believer  
In the dull creed of the beaver ;  
Strictly moral ; seeing beauty  
In the ploughshare line of duty ;

Loving nature as beasts love it,  
Eating, drinking, tasting of it,  
With no wild poetic gleaming,  
Seldom shaping, never dreaming ;  
Beaver with a wandering craze,  
Walked Eureka in God's ways.

Now ye know him, now ye see him ;  
Nought from beaver-blood can free him ;  
Yet stand by and shrewdly con him,  
While a wild light strikes upon him,  
While a gleam of glory finds him,  
Flashes in his eyes and blinds him,  
Shapes his mind to its full measure,  
Raising him, in one mad pleasure,  
'Spite the duller brain's control,  
To the stature of a SOUL !

III.

THE CAPTURE.

THE wild wood rings, the wild wood gleams,  
The wild wood laughs with echoes gay;  
Thro' its green heart a bright beck streams,  
Sparkling like gold in the sun's beams,  
But creeping, like a silvern ray,  
Where hanging boughs make dim the day.  
Hush'd, hot, and Eden-like all seems,  
And onward thro' the place of dreams  
Eureka Hart doth stray.

Strong, broad-awake, and happy-eyed,  
With the loose tangled light for guide,  
He wanders, and at times doth pass  
Thro' open glades of gleaming grass,

With spiderwort and larkspur spread,  
And great anemones blood-red ;  
On every side the forest closes,  
    The myriad trees are interlaced,  
Starr'd with the white magnolia roses,  
    And by the purple vines embraced.  
Beneath on every pathway shine  
The fallen needles of the pine ;  
Around are dusky scented bowers,  
Bridged with the glorious lian-flowers.  
Above, far up thro' the green trees,  
    The palm thrusts out its fan of green,  
Which softly stirs in a soft breeze,  
    Far up against the heavenly sheen.

And all beneath the topmost palm  
Is sultry shade and air of balm,  
Where, shaded from the burning rays,  
Scream choirs of parroquets and jays ;

Where in the dusk of dream is heard  
The shrill cry of the echo-bird ;  
And on the grass, as thick as bees,  
    Run mocking birds and wood-doves small  
Pecking the blood-red strawberries,  
    And fruits that from the branches fall :  
All rising up with gleam and cry,  
When the bright snake glides hissing by,  
Springs from the grass, and, swift as light,  
Slips after the cameleons bright  
From bough to bough, and here and there  
Pauses and hangs in the green air,  
Festoon'd in many a glistening fold,  
Like some loose chain of gems and gold.

Smoke from a mortal pipe is blent  
With cedar and acacia scent :  
Phlegmatically relishing,  
    Eureka smokes ; from every tree



The wood-doves brood, the sun-birds sing,  
The forest doth salute its King,

    The monarch Man,—but what cares he ?  
His eyes are dull, his soul in vain  
Hears the strange tongues of his domain,  
No echo comes to the soft strain  
From the dull cavern of his brain.

But hark ! what quick and sparkling cry  
Darts like a fountain to the sky ?  
How, human voices ! strangely clear,  
They burst upon the wanderer's ear.  
He stops, he listens—hark again,  
Wild rippling laughter rises plain !

O'er his fair face a look of wonder  
Is spreading—"Injins here—by thunder !"  
    He cocks his gun, and stands to hear,

Sets his white teeth together tight,  
Then, silent-footed as the deer,  
Creeps to the sound. The branches bright  
Thicken around him ; with quick flight  
The doves and blue-birds gleam away,  
Shooting in showers from spray to spray.  
A thicket of a thousand blooms,

Green, rose, white, blue, one rainbow glow,  
Closes around him ; strange perfumes,  
Crush'd underfoot in the rich glooms,  
Loads the rich air as he doth go ;

The harmless snakes around him glow  
With emerald eyes ; lithe arms of vine  
Trip him and round his neck entwine,  
Bursting against his stained skin  
Their grapes of purple glossy-thin.  
But still the rippling laughter flows  
Before him as he creeps and goes,  
Till suddenly, with a strange look,  
He crouches down in a green nook,

Crouches and gazes from the bowers,  
Curtain'd and cover'd up in flowers.

O, what strange sight before him lies?  
Why doth he gaze with sparkling eyes  
And beating heart? Deep, bright, and cool,  
Before him gleams a crystal pool,  
Fed by the beck: and o'er its brim  
Festoons of roses mirror'd dim  
Hang drooping low on every side;  
And glorious moths and dragon flies  
Hover above, and gleaming-eyed  
The stingless snake hangs blossom-wise,  
In loose folds sleeping. Not on these  
Gazes Eureka thro' the trees:  
Snake never made such smiles to grace  
His still blue eyes and sun-tann'd face,  
And never flower, howe'er so fair,  
Would fix that face to such a stare.

And yet like gleaming water-snakes

They wind and wanton in the pool.

Above their waists in flickering flakes

The molten sunlight slips and shakes ;

Beneath, their gleaming limbs bathe cool.

One floats above with laughter sweet,

And splashes silver with her feet ;

One clinging to the drooping boughs

Leans back, and lets her silken hair

Rain backward from her rippling brows,

While on her shoulders dark and bare

Blossoms fall thick and linger there

Nestling and clinging. To the throat

Cover'd, one dark-eyed thing doth float,

Her face a flower, her locks all wet,

Tendrils and leaves around it set ;

O sight most strangely beautiful,

Three Indian naiads in a pool !

Eureka, be it understood,

Though beaver-born, is flesh and blood,

And what he saw in day's broad gold  
Was stranger far a thousand fold,  
Than that wild scene bold Tam O'Shanter

    In Scotland saw one winter night,  
(Ah with the Scottish Bard to canter,  
On Pegasus to Fame instanter,

    Singing one song so trim and tight !)  
He look'd, and look'd, like Tam ; like him,  
On the most fair of face and limb  
Fixing most long his wondering eye ;  
For I like greater bards should lie,  
If I averr'd that all and one

Who sported there beneath the sun,  
Were gloriously fair of face ;

But they were women of red race,  
Clad in the most bewitching dress,  
Their own unconscious loveliness ;

And tho' their beauty might not be

    Perfect and flawless, they were fine,  
Bright-eyed, red-lipp'd, made strong and free

In many a cunning curve and line  
A sculptor would have deem'd divine.  
Not so the rest, who all around  
With fierce eyes squatted on the ground,  
Nodding approval :—squaws and crones  
Clapping their hands with eager groans.  
These were the witches, I might say,  
Of this new tropic Alloway.

[As for the Devil—even *he*  
Was by the Serpent represented  
Swinging asleep from a green tree,—  
Reflected, gloriously painted,  
In the bright water where the three  
Laugh'd and disported merrily.]

But chiefly poor Eureka gazed,  
Trembling, dumb-stricken, and amazed,  
On the most beautiful of all,  
Who standing on the water-side,  
A perfect shape queenly and tall  
Stood in the sun erect, and dried

Her gleaming body head to feet  
In one broad ray of golden heat.  
Naked she stood, but her strange sheen  
Of beauty clad her like a queen,  
And beaming rings of yellow gold  
Were round her wrists and ankles roll'd,  
And on her skin Eureka scann'd  
A symbol bright as of a brand  
Held burning in a human hand.

Smiling, she spake in a strange tongue,  
And eager laughter round her rung,  
While wading out all lustrous-eyed  
She sat upon the water side,  
And pelted merrily the rest  
With blossoms bright and flowers of jest.

Ah, little did Eureka guess,  
While wondering at her loveliness,

The same fair form had softly crept  
And look'd upon him while he slept,  
And thought him (*him!* the man of Maine!  
Civilizee with beaver-brain!)  
Beauteous, in passion's first wild beam,  
Beyond all Indian guess or dream!

Eureka Hart, though tempted more  
Than e'er was mortal man before,  
Did not like Tam O'Shanter break  
    The charm with mad applause or call;  
Too wise for such a boor's mistake,  
    He held his tongue, observing all;  
But while the hunter forward leant,  
Sharing the glorious merriment,  
He moved a little unaware  
    The better to behold the sport,  
And lo! upon the heavy air  
    Off went his gun with sharp report,



And while the bullet past his ear  
Whizz'd quick, he stagger'd with the shock,  
And with one scream distinct and clear  
Rose the red women in a flock.  
The naked bathers stood and scream'd,  
The brown squaws cried, their white teeth  
gleam'd ;  
And ere he knew, with startled face  
He stagger'd to the open space ;  
The sharp vines tript him, and, confounded,  
He stumbled, grasping still his gun,—  
And, by the chattering choir surrounded,  
Half dazed, lay lengthways in the sun.

As when a clumsy grizzly bear  
Breaks on a dove-cot unaware,  
As when some snake, unwieldy heap,  
Drops from a pine-bough, half asleep,  
Plump in the midst of grazing sheep ;—  
Even so into the women-swarm  
Suddenly fell the giant's form !

They leapt, they scream'd, they closed, they  
scatter'd,  
Some fled, some stood, all call'd and chatter'd,  
And to the man 'in his amaze  
Innumerable seem'd as jays  
And parroquets in the green ways.  
Had they been men, despite their throng,  
In sooth he had lain still less long ;  
But somehow in the stars 'twas fated,  
He for a space was *fascinated* !  
And ere he knew what he should do,  
All round about him swarm'd the crew,  
Sharp-eyed, quick-finger'd, and, despite  
His struggling, clung around him tight ;  
Half choked, half smother'd by embraces,  
In a wild mist of arms and faces,  
He stagger'd up ; in vain, in vain !  
Hags, squaws, and maidens in a chain  
Clung round him, and with quicker speed  
Than ye this running rhyme can read,

With tendrils tough as thong of hide,  
Torn from the trees on every side,  
In spite of all his strength, the band  
Had bound the Giant foot and hand.

IV.

THRO' THE WOOD.

THROUGH the gleaming forest closes,  
Where on white magnolia-roses  
Light the dim-draped queen reposes,  
Lo, they lead the captive giant.

Shrieking shrill as jays around him,  
They have led him, they have bound him,  
With a wreath of vine-leaves crown'd him,  
Which he weareth, half defiant.

If their ears could hear him swearing!  
Of his oaths he is not sparing,  
While, with hands sharp-claw'd for tearing,  
Hags and beldams burn to rend him.

If the younger, prettier creatures  
Heard that tallest of beseechers,  
While he pleads with frantic features !  
But they do *not* comprehend him.

In their Indian tongue they're crying,  
From the forest multiplying,  
Mocking, murmuring, leaping, flying,  
While he shouts out, "D—— the women !"

All his mighty strength is nothing :  
Like a ship, despite his loathing,  
Mid these women scant of clothing  
He is tossing, struggling, screaming.

Crown'd like Bacchus on he passes,  
O'er deep runlets, through great grasses,  
While [like flies around molasses]  
Fair and foul are round him humming !

Half a day they westward wander,  
Stopping not to rest or ponder ;  
Then the forest ends ; and yonder  
    Wild dogs bark to hear them coming.

Cluster'd in an open clearing  
Stand the wigwams they are nearing,  
Bark the dogs, a strange foot fearing,  
    Low the cattle,—straight before them.

Out into the sunlight leaping,  
There they see the wigwams sleeping,  
With a blue smoke upward creeping,  
    And the burning azure o'er them !

All is still, save for the screaming  
Children from the wigwams streaming,  
All is still and sweet to seeming,  
    Not a man's face forward thrusting.

Thinks Eureka, "This looks stranger—  
Ne'er a man—then double danger ;  
Many a year I've been a ranger,—  
    Woman's mercy put no trust in!"

As he speaks in trepidation,  
All his heart in palpitation,  
He is fill'd with admiration  
    At a vision wonder-laden.

From the largest wigwam, slowly,  
While the women-band bow lowly,  
Comes an old man white and holy,  
    Guided gently by a maiden!

V.

THE RED TRIBE.

NINETY long years had slowly shed  
Their snows upon the patriarch's head,  
And on a staff of ash he leant,  
Shaking and bending as he went.  
His face, sepulchral, long, and thin,  
Was shrivell'd like a dried snake's skin,  
And on the cheeks and forehead dark  
Tattoo'd was many a livid mark,  
And in the midst his eyeballs white  
Roll'd blankly, seeing not the light ;  
And when he listen'd in his place  
    You saw at once that he was *blind*,  
For with a visionary grace  
    Dim mem'ries moved from his own mind,



And the wild waters of his face  
    Waved in a wondrous wind.

From an artistic point of sight,  
The aged man was faultless quite ;  
Albeit, the raiment he did wear  
    Was somewhat hybrid ; for example,  
A pair of pantaloons threadbare  
Match'd strangely with his Indian air,  
    And blanket richly wrought and ample ;  
And, though perchance not over clean,  
He had a certain gentle mien  
Kindly and kingly ; and a smile  
Complacent in the kingly style,  
Yet fraught with strangely subtle rays,  
The lingering light of other days :—  
Brightness and motion such as we  
Trace in the trouble of the Sea,  
When the long stormy day is sped,  
And in the last light dusky-red

The waves are sinking, one by one.

But she who led him!—In the sun  
She gleam'd beside him, like a rose  
That by a dark sad water grows  
And trembles. In a moment's space  
Eureka recognised the face!  
'Twas hers, who stood most beautiful,  
Queen of those bathers in the pool!  
But her bright locks were braided now  
Around her clear and glistening brow,  
And on her limbs she wore a dress  
Less rich than her own loveliness.  
From the artistic point of view,  
The maiden's dress was faultless too,  
But, look'd at closely, not so rare  
As white-skin'd maid would wish to wear ;  
'Twas coarsest serge of sullen dye,  
Albeit embroider'd curiously ;

And the few ornaments she wore  
Were trifles valueless and poor ;—  
Their merit, let us straight confess,  
And all the merit of her dress,  
Was that they form'd for eyes to see  
Nimbus enough of drapery  
And ornament, just to suggest  
The costume that became her best—  
Her own brave beauty. She just wore  
Enough for modesty—no more.  
She was not, as white beauties seem,  
Smother'd, like strawberries in cream,  
With folds of silk and linen. No !  
The Indians wrap their babies so,  
And *we* our women ; who, alas !  
Waddle about upon the grass,  
Distorted, shapeless, smother'd, choking,  
Hideous, and horribly provoking,  
Because we long, without offence,  
To tear the mummy-wrappings thence,

And show the human form enchanting  
That 'neath the fatal folds is panting !

She was a shapely creature, tall,  
And slightly form'd, but plump withal,—  
Shapely as deers are—finely fair  
As creatures nourish'd by warm air,  
And luscious fruits that interfuse  
Something of their own glorious hues,  
And the rich odour that perfumes them,  
Into the body that consumes them.  
She had drank richness thro' and thro'  
As the great flowers drink light and dew ;  
And she had caught from wandering streams  
Their restless motion ; and strange gleams  
From snakes and flowers that glow'd around  
Had stolen into her blood, and found  
Warmth, peace, and silence ; and, in brief,  
Her looks were bright beyond belief

Of those who meet in the green ways  
The rum-wreck'd squaws of later days.

[I would be accurate, nor essay  
Again in Cooper's pleasant way  
A picture highly wrought and splendid  
Of the red race whose pride has ended.  
Nor here by contrast err : indeed,  
The red man is of Esau's seed,  
Hath Esau's swiftness, and, I guess,  
Much, too, of Esau's loveliness.  
A thousand years in the free wild  
He fought and hunted, leapt and smiled ;  
A million impulses and rays  
Shot thro' his spirit's tangled ways,  
Working within his dusky frame  
As in a storm-cloud worketh flame,  
Shaping his strength as years did roll  
Into the semblance of his soul.

Slowly his shape and spirit caught  
The living likeness wonder-fraught,  
The golden, many-coloured moods  
Of those free plains and pathless woods ;  
Those blooms that burst, those streams that run  
One changeless rainbow in the sun !  
Unto the hues of this rich clime  
His nature was subdued in time ;  
And he became as years increased  
A glorious animal, at least.]

Soon like a mist did disappear  
Eureka Hart's first foolish fear,  
For courteously the chief address'd him,  
    In English speech distinct tho' broken,  
Bade them unloose and cease to pest him,  
    And further, smiling and soft spoken,  
Inquired his country and his name,  
Whither he fared and whence he came.

Eureka, from the withes released,  
Shook himself like a bright-eyed beast,  
And mutter'd ; then, meeting the look  
Of that bright naiad of the brook,  
Blush'd like a shamefaced boy, while she  
Stood gazing on him silently,  
With melancholy orbs whose flame  
Confused his soul with secret shame.

In a brief answer and explicit,  
He told the cause of his strange visit.  
The old chief smiled and whisper'd low  
    Into the small ear of the maiden :  
Her large eyes fell, and with a glow  
    Of dark, deep rose her face was laden.  
Then, like a sound of many waters,  
Innumerable screams and chatters,  
The voices of the women-band  
    Broke out in passion and in power ;

But, at the raising of his hand,  
Ceased, like the swift cease of a shower.

Full soon Eureka saw and knew  
That the Dark Dame who favours few  
Had brought him to a friendly place,  
Where, far from cities, a mild race  
Of happy Indians spent their days  
'Mid pastures and well-water'd ways.  
An ancient people strong and good,  
With something sacred in their blood ;  
Scatter'd and few, to strangers kind ;  
Wise in the ways of rain and wind ;  
Peaceful when pleased, bloody when roused,  
They dwelt there comfortably housed ;  
And in those gardens ever fair,  
Hunted and fish'd with little care.  
Just then their braves were roaming bound  
On an adjacent hunting-ground ;

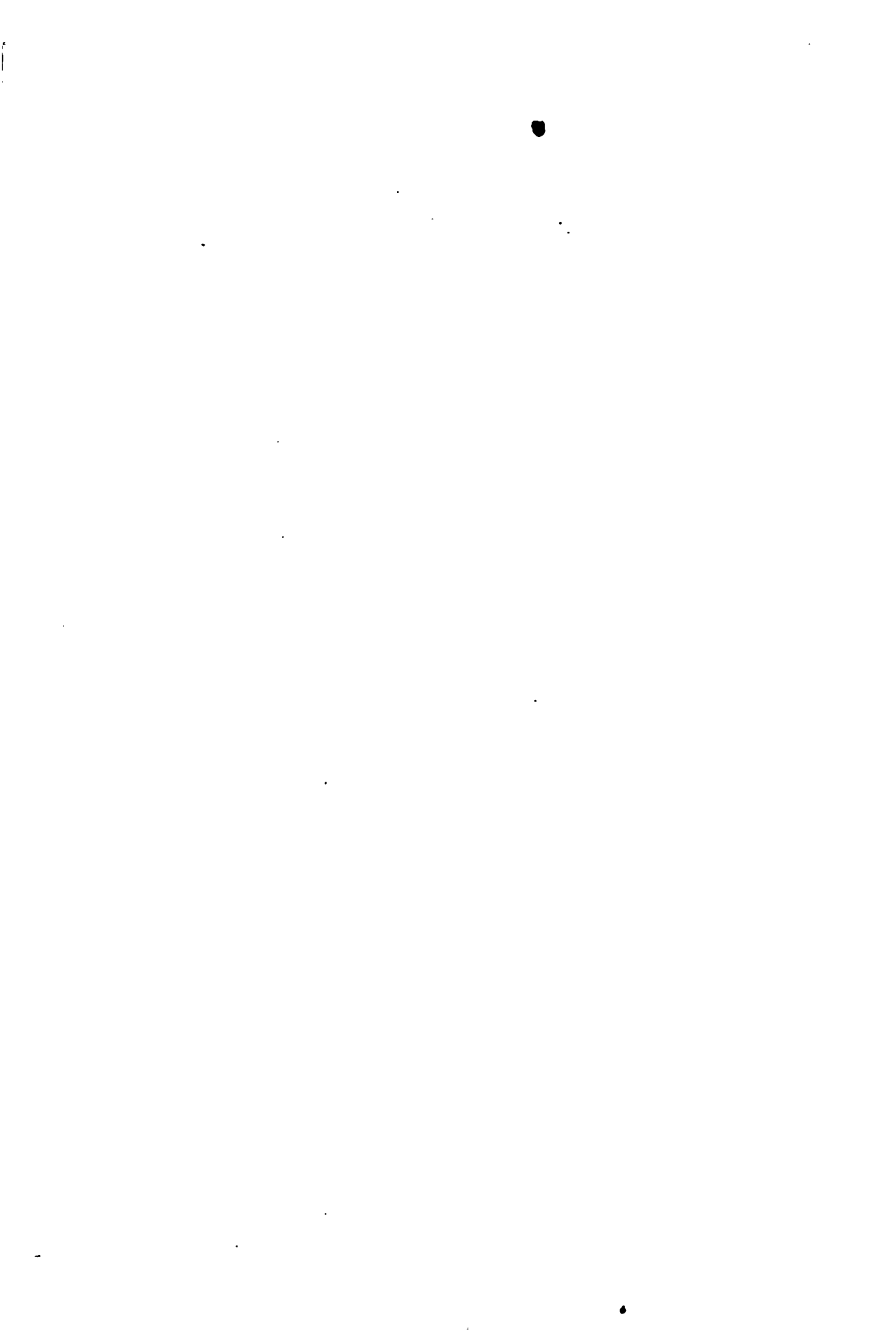


And all the population then  
Were women wild and aged men.—  
But he, that old man blind and tall,  
Was a great King, and Chief of all ;  
And she who led him was by birth  
His grandchild, dearest thing on earth  
To his dusk age ; and dear tenfold  
Because no other kin had she,—  
Since sire and mother both lay cold  
Under Death's leafless Upas-tree.

Enough ! here faltereth my first song ;  
Eureka, still in secret captured,  
In that lost Eden lingers long,  
And his big bosom beats enraptured.  
Long days and nights speed o'er him there ;  
What binds him *now* ? a woman's hair !  
What doth he see ? a woman's eyes  
Above him luminously rise !

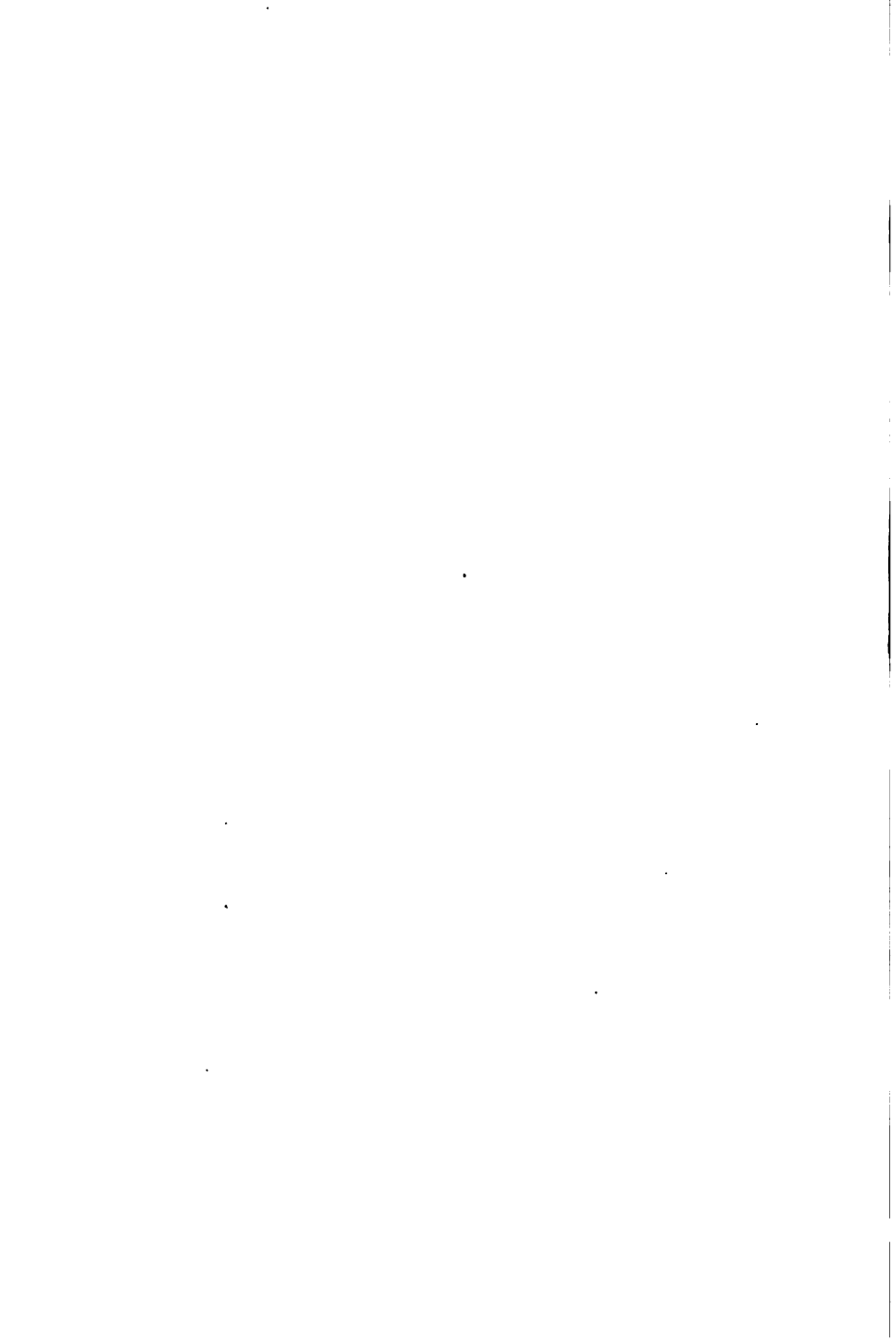
What doth he kiss ? a woman's mouth  
Sweeter than spice-winds of the south !  
By golden streams he lies full blest,  
And Red Rose blossoms on his breast.

O love ! love ! love ! whose spells are shed  
On bodies black, white, yellow, red—  
Flame of all matter,—flower of clay,—  
Star of pangenesis ;—but stay !  
A theme of so divine a tone  
Must have a canto of its own !



Part II.

RED ROSE.



I.

ERYCINA RIDENS.

O LOVE! O spirit of being!  
O wonderful secret of breath,  
Sweeter than hearing or seeing,  
Sadder than sorrow or death.

Earth with its holiest flavour,  
Life with its lordliest dower,  
The fruit's strange essence and flavour,  
Bloom and scent of the flower.

[Thus might a modern poet,  
O Aphrodite, uptake  
His fanciful flute and blow it,  
And wail the echoes awake!]

O love, love, Aphrodite,  
Cytherea divine,  
I hold you fever'd and flighty,  
And seek a pleasanter shrine.

Yet hither, O spirit fervent,  
Just to help me along,  
Forget I am not thy servant,  
And blow in the sails of my song.

For lo ! 'tis a situation  
Caused by thyself, 'twould seem ;  
The old, old foolish sensation,  
Two lovers lost in a dream.

O the wonder and glory,  
Bright as Creation's burst !  
O the ancestral story,  
Old as Adam the first !

Flame, and fervour, and fever,  
    Flashing from morning to night,  
Alliteration for ever  
    Of love, and longing, and light.

How should the story vary?  
    How should the song be new?  
Music and meaning marry?  
    'Tis love, love, love, all thro'!

As it was in the beginning,  
    Is, and ever shall be!  
Loving, and love for the winning,  
    Love, and the soul set free.

[An invocation like this is  
    Need not be over wise;  
Who shall interpret kisses?  
    What is the language of eyes?]



Again a man and a woman  
Feeling the old blest thing,  
Better than voices human  
A bird on the bough could sing.

Only a sound is wanted,  
Merry, and happy, and loud,—  
Such as the lark hath panted  
Up in the golden cloud.

Lips, and lips to kiss them ;  
Eyes, and eyes to behold ;  
Hands, and hands to press them ;  
Arms, and arms to enfold.

The love that comes to the palace,  
That comes to the cottage door ;  
The ever-abundant chalice  
Brimming for rich and poor ;

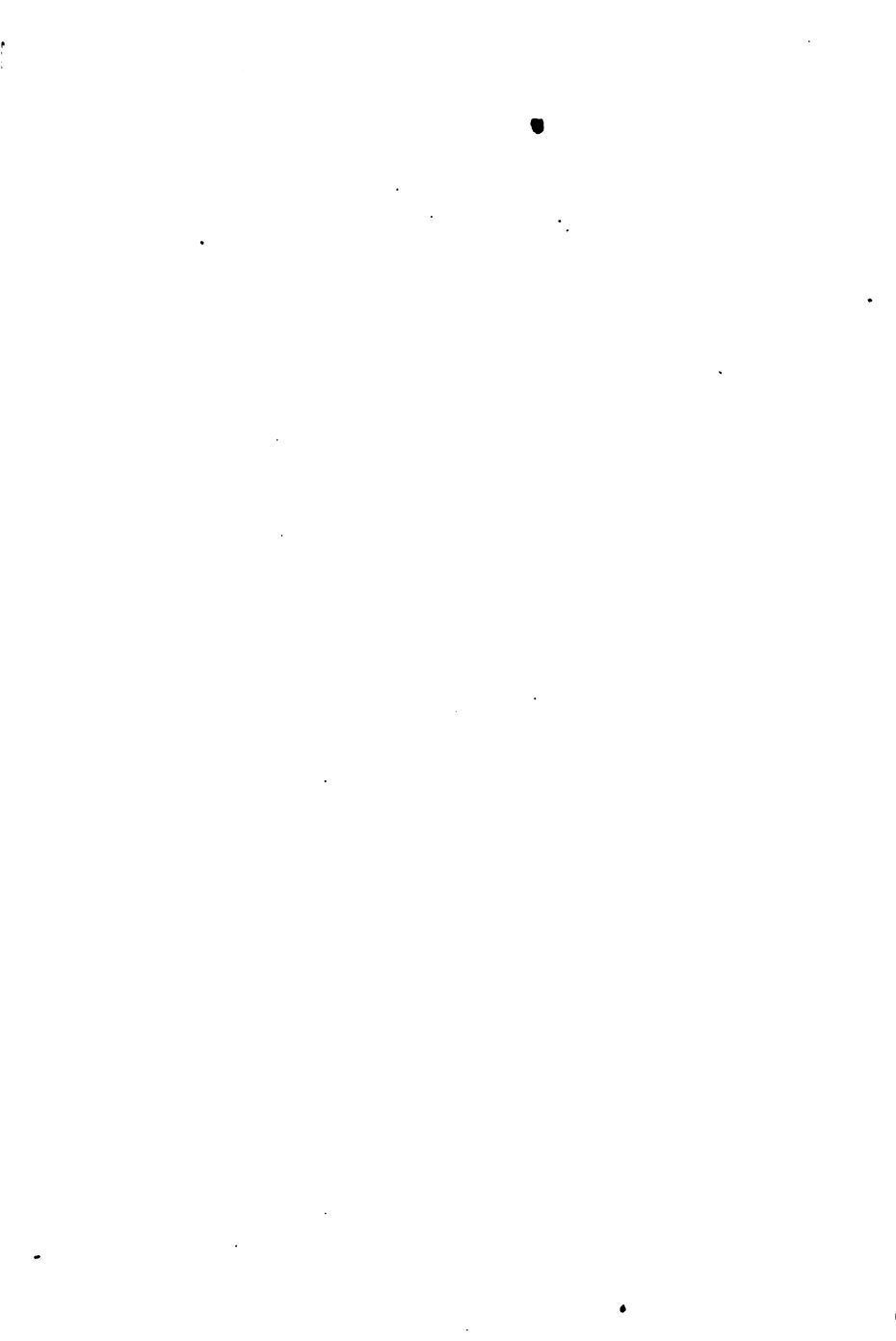
The love that waits for the winning,  
The love that ever is free,  
That was in the world's beginning,  
Is, and ever shall be!

II.

LOG AND SUNBEAM.

As a pine-log prostrate lying,  
    Slowly thro' its knotted skin  
Feels the warm revivifying  
    Spring-time thrill and tremble in ;  
As a pine-log, strong and massive,  
Feels the light and lieth passive,  
While a Sunbeam, coming daily,  
Creeps upon its bosom gaily ;  
Warms the bark with quick pulsations,  
Warms and waits each day in patience,  
While the green begins to brighten,  
And the sap begins to heighten,—

Till at last from its hard bosom  
Suddenly there slips a blossom  
Green as emerald!—then another!  
Then a third! then more and more!  
Till the soft green bud-knots smother  
What was sapless wood before;  
Till the thing is consecrated  
To the spirit of the Spring,  
Till the love for all things fated  
Burns and beautifies the thing;—  
And the wood-doves sit and con it,  
And the squirrels from on high  
Fluttering drop their nuts upon it,  
And the bee and butterfly  
Find it pleasant to alight there,  
And taps busy morn and night there  
Many a bird with golden beak;  
Till, since all has grown so bright there,  
It would cry (if Logs could speak),  
“Sunbeam, sunbeam, I’m your debtor!  
I was fit for firewood nearly.



Part II.

RED ROSE.

And the animal vibration

Throbbing in thee at her touch,  
The wild earthly exaltation,

Beasts and birds can feel as much,  
Radiating and illuming

Every fibre of thy flesh,  
Made thee beautiful and blooming,

Great and glorious, fair and fresh ;  
Fit it seem'd for love to yearn to,

For a fairer Soul than thine,  
Morning, noon, and night to burn to,  
In a flash that felt divine.

Her tall white chief, whom God had brought her  
( From the far-off Big-Sea Water ! \

Her warrior of the pale races,  
With wise tongues and paintless faces ;  
More than mortal, a great creature,  
Soft of tongue, and fine of feature ;  
As the wind that blew above her  
O'er the hunting-fields of azure,

As the stately clouds that hover  
In the air that pants for pleasure,  
Full of strength and motion stately,  
Were thy face and form unto her ;  
And thy blue eyes pleased her greatly,  
And thy clear voice trembled thro' her ;  
And for minute after minute  
She did pore upon thy face,  
Read the lines and guess within it  
The great spirit of thy race ;  
And thou seemedst altogether  
A great creature, fair of skin,  
Born in scenes of softer weather,  
Nobler than her savage kin !

As a peasant maiden homely  
Might regard some lordly wooer,  
Find each feature trebly comely  
From the pride it stoops unto her ;



Thus, Eureka, she esteem'd thee  
Fairer for thy finer blood ;  
She revered thee, loved thee, deem'd thee  
Wholly beautiful and good !  
And her day-dream ne'er was broken,  
As some mortal day-dreams are,  
By a word or sentence spoken  
In thy coarse vernacular.  
For she could not speak a dozen  
Words as used by the white nation !  
And thy speech seem'd finely chosen,  
Since she made her own translation,  
Scarce a syllable quite catching,  
Yet, upon thy bosom leaning,  
Out of every sentence snatching  
Music with its own sweet meaning.

Powers above ! the situation's  
Psychological, I swear !

How express the false relations  
Of this strange-assorted pair?  
Happy, glorious, self-deluded,  
On the handsome face she brooded,  
Ne'er by word or gesture driven  
From her day-dream sweet as heaven.  
In her native language for him

She had warrior's names most sweet:  
And she loved and did adore him,  
Falling fawn-like at his feet;  
More, the rapturous exultation  
Struck *him*! blinded *him*, in turn!  
Till with passionate sensation

Body and brain began to burn;—  
And he yielded to the bursting,  
Burning, blinding, hungering, thirsting,  
Passion felt by beasts and men!  
And his eyes caught love and rapture,  
And he held her close in capture,  
Kissing lips—that kiss'd again!

III.

NUPTIAL SONG.

WHERE were they wedded? In no Temple of ice  
Built up by human fingers ;  
The floor was strewn with flowers of fair device,  
The wood-birds were the singers.

Who was the Priest? The priest was the still  
Soul,  
Calm, gentle, and low-spoken ;  
He read a running brooklet like a scroll,  
And trembled at the token.

What was the service? 'Twas the service read  
When Adam's faith was plighted !

The tongue was silent, but the lips rose-red  
In silence were united.

Who saw it done? The million starry eyes  
Of one ecstatic Heaven.

Who shared the joy? The flowers, the trees,  
the skies  
Thrill'd as each kiss was given.

Who was the Bride? A spirit strong and true,  
Beauteous to human seeing,—  
Soft elements of flesh, air, fire, and dew,  
Blent in one Rose of being.

What was her consecration? Innocence! .  
Pure as the wood doves round her,  
Nothing she knew of rites—the strength in-  
tense  
Of God and Nature found her.

As freely as maids give a lock away,  
She gave herself unto him.  
What was the Bridegroom? Clay, and common  
clay,  
Yet the wild joy slipt through him.

Hymen, O Hymen! By the birds was shed  
A matrimonial cadence!  
*Da nuces!* Squirrels strew'd the nuts, instead  
Of rosy youths and maidens!

Eureka, yea, Eureka was to blame—  
He was an erring creature:  
Uncivilised by one wild flash of flame  
He waver'd back on Nature.

He kiss'd her lips, he drank her breath in bliss,  
He drew her to his bosom:  
As a clod kindles at the Spring's first kiss  
His being burst to blossom!

Who rung the bells? The breeze, the merry  
breeze,

Set all in bright vibration:

Clear, sweet, yet low, there trembled through  
the trees

The nuptial jubilation!

IV.

ARRÊTEZ!

O'ER this joy I dare not linger :  
Stands a Shape with lifted finger  
Crying in a low voice, " Singer !  
Far too much of Eve and Adam.

"Details of this dark connection  
I desire not for inspection !"  
And the Bard, with genuflexion,  
Answers, "I obey thee, Madam !"

Stands the Moral Shape reproving,  
While I linger o'er this loving ;  
Cries the voice, "Pass on ! be moving !  
We are virtuous, here to nor'ward !"

Constable, I force cessation  
To my flood of inspiration ;  
Such a theme for adumbration !  
I resign it, and move forward.



v.

THE FAREWELL.

LOVE, O love! thou bright and burning  
Weathercock for ever turning ;  
Gilded vane, fix'd for our seeing  
On the highest spire of being ;  
Symbol, indication ; reeling  
Round to every wind of feeling ;  
Only pointing some sad morrow,  
In one sudden gust of sorrow,  
Sunset-ward, where redly, slowly,  
Passion sets in melancholy.

In the wood-ways, roof'd by heaven,  
Were the nuptial kisses given ;

In the dark green, moonbeam-haunted  
Forest; in the bowers enchanted  
Where the fiery specks are flying,  
And the whip-poor-will is crying;  
Where the heaven's open blue eye  
Thro' the boughs broods dark and dewy,  
And the white magnolia glimmers  
Back the light in starry tremors;  
Where the acacia in the shady  
Silence trembles like a lady  
Scented sweet and softly breathing;  
There, amid the brightly wreathing,  
Blooming branches, did they capture  
Love's first consecrated rapture.

Pure she came to him, a maiden  
Innocent as Eve in Eden,  
Tho' in secret; for she dreaded  
Wrath of kinsmen tiger-headed,  
In whose vision, fierce and awful,  
Love for white men was unlawful.

Yet in this her simple reason  
Knew no darker touch of treason  
Than dost thou, O white and dainty  
English maid of sweet-and-twenty,  
When from guardian, father, brother,  
[Harsh protectors, one or t'other,]  
Off you trip, self-handed over  
To your chosen lord and lover,  
Tears of love and rapture shedding  
In the hush of secret wedding.

Now from these lost days Elysian,  
Modestly I drop my vision!  
Rose the wave supreme and splendid,  
To a tremulous crest, and ended,  
Falling, falling, one sad morrow,  
In a starry spray of sorrow.

Whether 'twas by days or hours,  
Weeks or months, in those bright bowers,

They their gladness counted,—whether  
Like the one day's summer weather  
At the pole, their bliss upstarted,  
Brighten'd, blacken'd, and departed,—  
I relate not ; all my story  
Is, that soon or late this glory  
Fell and faded. After daylight  
Came an eve of sad and gray light ;  
There were tears—wild words were spoken,  
Down the cup was dash'd, and broken.

First came danger,—eyeballs fiery  
Watch'd the pair in fierce inquiry ;  
Secret footsteps dodged the lovers ;  
As a black hawk slowly hovers  
O'er the spot amid the heather  
Where the gray birds crouch together,  
Hung Suspicion o'er the places  
Where they sat with flaming faces.

Next came—what d'ye call the dreary  
Heavy-hearted thing and weary,  
In old weeds of joy bedizen'd?  
By the shallow French 'tis christen'd  
*Ennui* ! Ay, the snake that grovels  
In a host of scrofulous novels,  
Leper even of the leprous  
Race of serpents vain and viprous,  
Bred of slimy eggs of evil,  
Sat on by the printer's devil,  
Last, to gladden absinthe-lovers,  
Born by broods in paper covers !

After the great wave of madness,  
*Ennui* came ; and tho' in gladness  
Still the Indian maiden's nature  
Clung round the inferior creature,  
Though with burning, unconsuming,  
Deathless love *her* heart was blooming,

*He* grew weary, and his passion  
In a dull evaporation  
Slowly lessen'd, till caressing  
Grew distracting and distressing.  
Conscience waken'd in a fever,  
Just a day too late, as ever ;  
He remember'd, one fine day,  
His relations far away.

All the beavers ! the deceiver !  
After all, he *was* a beaver  
Born and bred, tho' the unchanging  
Dash of wild blood kept him ranging ;  
Beaver-conscience, now awaken'd,  
Since the first true bliss had slacken'd,  
Whisper'd with a sad affection,  
" Fie ! it is a strange connection !  
Is it worthy ? Can it profit ?  
Sits the world approving of it ? "  
While another whisper said,  
" *You're* a white man ! *She* is red ! "

Ne'ertheless he seem'd to love her,  
Watch'd her face and bent above her,  
Fondly thinking, "Now, I wonder  
If the world would blame my blunder?  
If her skin were only whiter,  
If her manners were politer,  
I would take her with me nor'ward,  
Wed her, cling to her thenceforward,  
Clothe her further, just a tittle,  
Live respectable and settle!"  
She was silent, as he brooded  
Handsome-faced and beaver-mooded,  
Thinking, "Now my chief is seeming  
Where the fires of fight are streaming!  
O, how great and grand his face is,  
Lit with light of the pale races!"  
And she bent her brows before him,  
Kiss'd his hands, and did adore him,  
And she waited in deep duty;  
While her eyes of dazzling beauty,

Like two jewels ever streaming  
Broken yet unceasing rays,  
Watch'd him as in beaver-dreaming  
He would walk in the green ways.

Still he seem'd to her a splendid  
Creature, but his trance had ended ;  
More and more, thro' ever seeing  
Red skins round him, he lost patience,  
More and more the hybrid being  
Sigh'd for civilised relations ;  
For Eureka Hart, tho' wholly  
Of a common social mind,  
Narrow-natured, melancholy,  
Hated *ties* of any kind ;—  
Yet if any tie could hold him  
To a place or to a woman,  
'Twould be one the world had told him  
Was respectable and common.



Here, then, hemm'd in by a double  
Dark dilemma, he found trouble,  
And with look a Grecian painter  
    Would have given to a god,  
Feeling passion still grow fainter,  
    Thought, "I reckon things look odd!  
Wouldn't Parson Pendon frown,  
If he knew, in Drowsietown?"

As he spoke he saw the village  
Rising up with tilth and tillage,  
Saw the smithy, like an eye  
Flaming bloodshot at the sky,  
Saw the sleepy river flowing,  
    Saw the swamps burn in the sun,  
Saw the people coming, going,  
    All familiar, one by one.  
"There the plump old Parson goes,  
Silver buckles on his toes,

Broad-brimm'd beaver on his head,  
Clean-shaved chin, and cheek as red  
As ripe pippins, kept in hay,  
Polish'd on Thanksgiving day;  
Black coat, breeches, all complete,  
On the old mare he keeps his seat,  
Jogging on with smiles so bright  
To creation left and right.

There's the Widow Abner smiling  
At her door as he goes past,  
Guess she thinks she looks beguiling,  
But he cuts along more fast.

There's Abe Sinker drunk as ever,  
There's the pigs all in the gutter,  
There's the miller by the river,  
Broad as long and fat as butter.

See it all, so plain and pleasant,  
Just like life their shadows pass,  
Wonder how they are at present ?

Guess they think *I'm* gone to grass ! ”

While this scene he contemplated,  
Sighing like a homeless creature,  
Round him, brightly concentrated,  
Glow'd the primal fire of Nature !  
Rainbow-hued and rapturous-colour'd,  
With one burning brilliant look  
Flaming fix'd upon the dullard,  
Nature rose in wild rebuke !  
Shower'd her blossoms round him, o'er him,  
Breathed warm breath upon his face,  
Flash'd her flowers and fruits before him,  
Follow'd him from place to place ;  
With wild jasmine and with amber  
She perfumed his sleeping chamber,  
Hung around him happy hours  
With her arms of lustre-flowers,  
Held to his in blest repose  
Her warm breasts of living roses ;  
Bade a thousand dazzling, crying,  
Living, creatures do him honour,  
Stood herself, naked and sighing,

With an aureole upon her ;  
Then, with finger flashing brightly  
    Pointing to her prime creation,—  
Fruits and flowers and scents blent lightly  
    In one dazzling adumbration,—  
Cried unto him over and over,  
“See my child ! O love her, love her !  
*I* eternal am, no comer  
In a feeble flush of summer,  
Like the hectic colour flying  
Of a maid love-sick and dying ;  
Here no change, but ever burning  
Quenchless fire, and ceaseless yearning :  
Endless exquisite vibration  
    Sweet as love’s first nuptial kiss,  
One soft sob of strange sensation  
    Flowering into shapes of bliss ;  
And the brightest, O behold her  
    With a changeless warmth like mine—  
Love her ! In thy soul enfold her !

Blend with *us*, and be divine !”  
All in vain that fond entreating !  
Still Eureka’s beaver-brain  
Thought—“ This climate’s rather heating—  
Weather’s cooler up in Maine !”

Yet no wonder Nature loved him,  
Sought to take his soul by storm,  
Gloried when her meaning moved him,  
Clung in fondness round his form ;  
For, in sooth, tho’ unimpassion’d,  
Gloriously the man was fashion’d :  
One around whose strength and splendour  
Women would have pray’d to twine,  
As the lian loves to blend her  
Being with the beech or pine.  
And his smile when she was present  
Was seraphic, full of spirit,  
And his voice was low and pleasant,  
And her soul grew bright to hear it !

And when tall he strode to meet her,  
And his handsome face grew sweeter,  
In her soul she thought, "O being,  
Fair and gracious and deep-seeing,  
White man, great man, far above me,  
What am *I*, that thou shouldst love me?"

She had learnt him with lips burning  
(O for such a course of learning !)  
Something of her speech,—'twas certain  
Quite enough to woo and flirt in ;  
Words not easy of translation  
They transfused into sensation,  
Soon discovering and proving,  
    As a small experience teaches,  
"Bliss" and "kiss," and other loving  
    Words, are common to *all* speeches !  
Ah, the rapture! ah, the fleeting  
Follies of each fond, mad meeting !

Smiling with red lips asunder,  
Clapping hands at each fond blunder,  
She instructed him right gaily  
In her Indian *patois* daily.  
Sweetly from his lips it sounded,  
Help'd with those great azure eyes,  
Till upon his heart she bounded  
Panting praise with laughs and cries.  
'Twas a speech antique and olden,  
Full of gurgling notes, it ran  
Like some river rippling golden  
Down a dale Arcadian ;  
Like the voices of doves brooding ;  
Like a fountain's gentle moan ;  
Nothing commonplace intruding  
On its regal monotone :  
Sounds and symbols interblending  
Like the heave of loving bosoms ;  
Consonants like strong boughs bending,  
Snowing vowels down like blossoms !

Faltering in this tongue, he told her,  
Sitting in a secret place,  
While with bright head on his shoulder,  
Luminous-eyed, she watch'd his face,  
How, tho' every hour grown fonder,  
Tho' his soul was still aflame,  
Still, he sigh'd once more to wander  
To the clime from whence he came ;  
Just once more to look upon it,  
Just for one brief hour to con it,  
Just to see his kin and others  
In the Town where they did dwell,  
Just to say to his white brothers  
One farewell, a last farewell.  
Then to hasten back unto her,  
And to live with her and die. . . .  
Sharp as steel his speech stabb'd thro' her,  
Cold she sat without a cry,  
On her heart her small hand pressing,  
Breathing like a bird in pain,



Silent, tho' he smiled caressing,  
Kiss'd, but kissing not again.

Then she waken'd, like one waking  
From a trance, and with heart aching  
Clung around him, as if dreading  
Lest some hand should snatch him thence !  
Then, upon his bosom shedding  
Tears of ecstasy intense,  
By her gods conjured him wildly  
Never, never to depart !  
O how meekly, O how mildly,  
Answer'd back Eureka Hart !

But by slow degrees he coax'd her,  
Night by night, and day by day,  
With such specious spells he hoax'd her  
That her first fear fled away.  
Slow she yielded, still believing  
Not for long he'd leave her lonely ;

For he told her, still deceiving,  
 'Twas a *little journey* only.  
 Poor, dark bird! nought *then* knew she  
 Of this world's geography!

Troubled, shaken, half-demented,  
 Broken-hearted—she assented.  
 Since, by wind, and wave, and vapour,  
     By the shapes of earth and skies ;  
 By the white moon's ghostly taper,  
     By the stars that like dead eyes  
 Watch it burning ; by the mystic  
     Motion of the winds and woods ;  
 By all dark and cabalistic  
     Shapes of tropic solitudes ;  
 By the waters melancholy ;  
     By God's hunting-fields of blue ;  
 By all things that she deem'd holy  
     He had promised to be true !  
 Just to pay a flying visit

To connections close at hand,  
Then to haste with love undying  
Back unto that happy land.  
'Twas enough! the Maid assented,  
Thinking sadly, in her pain,  
"He will never be contented  
Till he sees them once again.  
Thither, thither let him wander ;  
When once more I feel his kiss,  
His proud spirit will be fonder  
Since my love hath granted this!"

"Go!" she cried, and her dark features  
Kindled like a dying creature's,  
And her heart rose, and her spirit  
Cried as if for God to hear it—  
Wildly in her arms she press'd him  
To her bosom broken-hearted—  
Call'd upon her gods, and blest him!  
And Eureka Hart departed.

VI.

THE PAPER.

Here should my second canto end—yet stay  
Listen a little ere ye turn away.

By night they parted ; and she cut by night  
One large lock from his forehead, which with  
    bright,  
Warm lips she kiss'd ; then kiss'd the lock of  
    hair,  
With one quick sob of passionate despair ;  
And he, with hand that shook a little now,  
Still with that burning seal upon his brow,  
While in that bitter agony they embraced,  
He in her little hand a paper placed,

Whereon, at her fond prayer, he had writ plain,

*"Eureka Hart, Drowsietown, State of Maine."*

"For," thought he, "I have promised soon or late

Hither to come again to her, my mate ;

And I will keep my promise, sure, some day,  
Unless I die or sicken by the way.

But no man knows what pathway he may  
tread,—

To-morrow—nay, ere dawn—I may be dead !  
And she shall know, lest foul my fortune proves,  
The name and country of the man she loves ;  
And since she wishes it, to cheer her heart,  
It shall be written down ere I depart."

And so it was ; and while his kiss thrill'd thro'  
her,

With that loved lock of hair he gave it to her.

Aye, so it was ; for in the woods at dawn  
He from his pouch had an old letter drawn,

One leaf of which was blank, and this he took,  
And smiling at the woman's wondering look,  
While quietly she murmur'd, "T'is a charm!"  
In hunter's fashion he had prick'd his arm,  
And, having pen nor ink, had ta'en a spear  
Of thorn for stylus, and in crimson clear,  
His own heart's blood, had writ the words she  
sought.

And in that hour deep pity in him wrought,  
And he believed that he his vows would keep,  
Nor e'er be treacherous to a love so deep.  
"See!" said he, as the precious words he gave,  
"Keep this upon thy bosom, and be brave.  
As sure as that red blood belong'd to me,  
I shall, if I live on, return to thee.  
If death should find me while thou here dost  
wait,

Thou canst at least make question of my fate  
Of any white man whose stray feet may fare  
Down hither, showing him the words writ there."

All this he said to her with faltering voice  
In broken Indian, and in words less choice ;  
And quite persuaded of his good intent,  
Shoulder'd his gun with a gay heart, and went.

And in that paper, while her fast tears fell,  
She wrapt the lock of hair she loved so well,  
And thrust it on her heart ; and with sick sight,  
Watch'd his great figure fade into the night ;  
Then raised her hands to her wild gods, that sped  
Above her in a whirlwind overhead,  
And the pines rock'd in tempest, and her form  
Bent broken with the breathing of the storm.

O little paper ! Blurr'd with secret tears !  
O blood-red charm ! O thing of hopes and fears !  
Between two worlds a link, so faint, so slight,  
The two worlds of the red man and the white !  
Lie on her heart and soothe her soul's sad pain !

“EUREKA HART, DROWSIETOWN, STATE OF  
MAINE.”

**Part III.**

**WHITE ROSE.**





I.

DROWSIETOWN.

O so drowsy! In a daze  
Sweating 'mid the golden haze,  
With its smithy like an eye  
Glaring bloodshot at the sky,  
And its one white row of street  
Carpetted so green and sweet,  
And the loungers smoking still  
Over gate and window-sill;  
Nothing coming, nothing going,  
Locusts grating, one cock crowing,  
Few things moving up or down,  
All things drowsy—Drowsietown!

Thro' the fields with sleepy gleam,  
Drowsy, drowsy steals the stream,

Touching with its azure arms  
Upland fields and peaceful farms,  
Gliding with a twilight tide  
Where the dark elms shade its side ;  
Twining, pausing sweet and bright  
Where the lilies sail so white ;  
Winding in its sedgy hair  
Meadow-sweet and iris fair ;  
Humming as it hies along  
Monotones of sleepy song ;  
Deep and dimpled, bright nut-brown,  
Flowing into Drowsietown.

Far as eye can see, around,  
Upland fields and farms are found,  
Floating prosperous and fair  
In the mellow misty air :  
Apple-orchards, blossoms blowing  
Up above,—and clover growing

Red and scented round the knees  
Of the old moss-silvered trees.  
Hark! with drowsy deep refrain,  
In the distance rolls a wain ;  
As its dull sound strikes the ear,  
Other kindred sounds grow clear—  
Drowsy all—the soft breeze blowing,  
Locusts grating, one cock crowing,  
Cries like voices in a dream  
Far away amid the gleam,  
Then the waggons rumbling down  
Thro' the lanes to Drowsietown.

Drowsy ? Yea !—but idle ? Nay !  
Slowly, surely, night and day,  
Humming low, well greased with oil,  
Turns the wheel of human toil.  
Here no grating gruesome cry  
Of spasmodic industry ;

No rude clamour, mad and mean,  
Of a horrible machine!  
Strong yet peaceful, surely roll'd,  
Winds the wheel that whirls the gold.  
Year by year the rich rare land  
Yields its stores to human hand—  
Year by year the stream makes fat  
Every field and meadow-flat—  
Year by year the orchards fair  
Gather glory from the air,  
Redden, ripen, freshly fed,  
Their bright balls of golden red.  
Thus, most prosperous and strong,  
Flows the stream of life along  
Six slow days! wains come and go,  
Wheat-fields ripen, squashes grow,  
Cattle browse on hill and dale,  
Milk foams sweetly in the pail,  
Six days: on the seventh day,  
Toil's low murmur dies away—

All is husht save drowsy din  
Of the waggons rolling in,  
Drawn amid the plenteous meads  
By small fat and sleepy steeds.  
Folk with faces fresh as fruit  
Sit therein or trudge afoot,  
Brightly drest for all to see,  
In their seventh-day finery :  
Farmers in their breeches tight,  
Snowy cuffs, and buckles bright ;  
Ancient dames and matrons staid  
In their silk and flower'd brocade,  
Prim and tall, with soft brows knitted,  
Silken aprons, and hands mitted ;  
Haggard women, dark of face,  
Of the old lost Indian race ;  
Maidens happy-eyed and fair,  
With bright ribbons in their hair,  
Trip along, with eyes cast down,  
Thro' the streets of Drowsietown.

Drowsy in the summer day  
In the meeting-house sit they ;  
'Mid the high-back'd pews they doze,  
Like bright garden-flowers in rows ;  
And old Parson Pendon, big  
In his gown and silver'd wig,  
Drones above in periods fine  
Sermons like old flavour'd wine—  
Crusted well with keeping long  
In the darkness, and not strong.  
O ! so drowsily he drones  
In his rich and sleepy tones,  
While the great door, swinging wide,  
Shows the bright green street outside,  
And the shadows as they pass  
On the golden sunlit grass.  
Then the mellow organ blows,  
And the sleepy music flows,  
And the folks their voices raise  
In old unctuous hymns of praise,

Fit to reach some ancient god  
Half asleep with drowsy nod.  
Deep and lazy, clear and low,  
Doth the oily organ grow!  
Then with sudden golden cease  
Comes a silence and a peace;  
Then a murmur, all alive,  
As of bees within a hive;  
And they swarm with quiet feet  
Out into the sunny street;  
There, at hitching-post and gate  
Do the steeds and waggons wait.  
Drawn in groups, the gossips talk,  
Shaking hands before they walk;  
Maids and lovers steal away,  
Smiling hand in hand, to stray  
By the river, and to say  
Drowsy love in the old way—  
Till the sleepy sun shines down  
On the roofs of Drowsietown.



In the great marsh, far beyond  
Street and building, lies the Pond,  
Gleaming like a silver shield  
In the midst of wood and field ;  
There on sombre days you see  
Anglers old in reverie,  
Fishing feebly morn to night  
For the pickerel so bright.  
From the woods of beech and fir,  
Dull blows of the woodcutter  
Faintly sound ; and haply, too,  
Comes the cat-owl's wild "tuhoo!"  
Drown'd by distance, dull and deep,  
Like a dark sound heard in sleep ;—  
And a cock may answer, down  
In the depths of Drowsietown.

Such is Drowsietown—but nay!  
*Was*, not *is*, my song should say—  
Such *was* summer long ago

In this town so sleepy and slow.  
Change has come : thro' wood and dale  
Runs the demon of the rail,  
And the Drowsietown of yore  
Is not drowsy any more !

O so drowsy ! In the haze  
Of those long dead summer days,  
Underneath the still blue sky  
I can see the hamlet lie—  
Like a river in a dream  
Flows the little nut-brown stream ;  
Yet not many a mile away  
Flashes foam and sprinkles spray,  
Close at hand the green marsh flows  
Into brackish pools and sloughs,  
And with storm-wave fierce and frantic  
Roars the wrath of the Atlantic.

*Waken* Drowsietown ?—The Sea ?  
Break its doze and reverie ?

Nay, for if it hears at all  
Those unresting waters call,  
They are far enough, I guess,  
Just to soothe and not distress.  
When the wild nor'wester breaks,  
And the sullen thunder shakes,  
For a space the Town in fear,  
Dripping wet with marsh and mere,  
Quakes and wonders, and is found  
With its ear against the ground  
Listening to the sullen war  
Of the flashing sea afar !  
But the moment all is done  
On its tear-drops gleams the sun,  
Each rude murmur dies ; and lo !  
In a sleepy sunny glow,  
'Mid the moist rays slanting down,  
Once more dozes Drowsietown.  
As the place is, drowsy-eyed  
Are the folks that there abide ;

Strong, phlegmatic, calm, revealing  
No wild fantasies of feeling ;  
Loving sunshine ; on the soil  
Basking in a drowsy toil.

Mild and mellow, calm and clear,  
Flows their life from year to year—  
Each fulfils his drowsy labour,  
Each the picture of his neighbour,  
Each exactly, rich or poor,  
What his father was before—

O so drowsy ! In a gleam,  
Far too steady to be Dream,  
Flows their slow humanity  
Winding, stealing, to the Sea.

Sea ? What Sea ? The Waters vast,  
Whither all life flows at last,  
Where all individual motion  
Lost in one imperious ocean  
Fades, as yonder river doth  
In the great Sea at its mouth.

Ah! the mighty wondrous Deep,  
'Tis so near ;—yet half asleep,  
Deaf to all its busy hum,  
These calm people go and come ;—  
Quite forgetting it is nigh,  
Save when hurricanes go by  
With a ghostly wail o'erhead  
Shrieking shrill—" Bury your dead ! "  
For a moment, wild-eyed, caught  
In a sudden gust of thought,  
Panting, praying, wild of face,  
Stand the people of the place ;  
But, directly all is done,  
They are smiling in the sun—  
Drowsy, yet busy as good bees  
Working in a sunny ease,  
To and fro, and up and down,  
Move the folks of Drowsietown.

II.

AFTER MEETING.

DEACON JONES.

WELL, winter's over altogether ;

The loon's come back to Purley Pond ;  
It's all green grass and pleasant weather

Up on the marsh and the woods beyond.

It's God Almighty's meaning clear

To give us farmers a prosperous year ;

Tho' many a sinner that I could mention

Is driving his ploughshare nowadays  
Clean in the teeth of the Lord's intention,

And spiling the land he ought to raise.

## DEACON HOLMES.

I've drained the marsh by Simpson's building,  
Cleared out the rushes, and flag, and weed,  
The ground's all juicy, and looks like yielding,  
And I'm puttin' it down in pip-corn seed.  
How's Father Abel? Comin' round?  
Glad the rheumatics have left him now.

## DEACON JONES.

Summer's *his* med'cine; he'll soon be sound,  
And spry as a squirrel on a bough.

## BIRD CHORUS.

Chickadee! chickadee!  
Green leaves on every tree!  
Over field, over foam,  
All the birds are coming home.  
Honk! honk! sailing low,  
Cried the gray goose long ago.  
Weet! weet! in the light  
Flutes the phœbe-bird so bright.

Chewink, veery, thrush o' the wood,  
Silver treble raise together ;  
All around their dainty food  
Ripens with the ripening weather.  
Hear, O hear !  
In the great elm by the mere  
Whip-poor-will is crying clear.

MOTHER ABNER.

And so it is ! And so the news is true !  
And your Eureka has returned to you ;  
I saw him in the church, and took a stare.  
A Hart, aye every inch, the tallest there.  
You'll hold the farm-land now, and keep things  
clear ;  
You wanted jest a man—Eureka's here.

WIDOW HART.

Well, I don't know. Eureka ain't no hand  
At raising crops or looking after land ;



It's been a bitter trial to me, neighbour,  
To see his wandering ways and hate o' labour.  
He's been abroad too much to care jest now  
For white men's ways, and following the plough.

MOTHER ABNER.

He's a fine figure and a handsome face ;  
There ain't his ekal this day in the place.  
And if he'd take a wife and settle down,  
There's many a wench would jump in Drowsie-  
town.

Ah ! that's the only way to tie your son,  
And now he's got the farm 'tis easy done ;  
There's Jez'bel Jones, and there's Euphemia Clem,  
And Sarah Snowe,—they're all good matches,  
them.

And there's—why, there he goes, right down  
the flat,  
Looks almost furrin' in that queer straw hat ;  
And who's that with him in the flower'd chintz  
dress ?

Why, Phœbe Anna Cattison, I guess !  
That little mite ! How tiny and how prim  
Trips little Phœbe by the side of him !  
And when she looks up in his face, tehee !  
It's like a chipmunk looking up a tree !

THE RIVER SINGS.

O willow loose lightly  
Your soft long hair !  
I'll brush it brightly  
With tender care ;  
And past you flowing  
I'll softly uphold  
Great lilies blowing  
With hearts of gold.  
For spring is beaming,  
The wind's in the south,  
And the musk-rat's swimming,  
A twig in its mouth,

To build its nest  
Where it loves it best,  
In the great dark nook  
By the bed o' my brook.  
It's spring, bright spring,  
And blue-birds sing !  
And the fern is pearly  
All day long,  
And the lark rises early  
To sing a song.  
The grass shoots up like fingers of fire,  
And the flowers awake to a dim desire,  
So willow, willow, shake down, shake down  
Your locks so silvern and long and slight ;  
For lovers are coming from Drowsietown,  
And thou and I must be merry and bright !

PHOEBE ANNA.

This is the first fine day this year :  
The grass is dry and the sky is clear ;  
The sun's out shining ; up to the farm

It looks like summer ; so bright and warm.  
There's apple blooms on the boughs already,  
    Long as your finger the corn-blades shoot,  
And father thinks, if the sun keeps steady,  
    'Twill be a wonderful fall for fruit.  
How do you like being here at home again ?  
Reckon you'd rather pack up and roam again !

*EUREKA.*

I'm sick o' roaming, I hate strange places ;  
    I've slep' too long in the woods and brakes ;  
It's pleasure seeing white folks' faces  
    After the b'ars, and the birds, and the snakes.  
This yer life is civilisation,  
T'other's a heathen dissipation !  
One likes to die where his father before him  
Died, with the same sky shinin' o'er him.  
I've been a wastrel and that's the truth,  
    Earning nought but a sneer and a frown ;  
I've wasted the precious days o' youth,  
    Instead of stopping and settling down.

PHŒBE ANNA.

But now the farm is your own to dwell in,  
You'll ne'er go back to the wilderness?

EUREKA.

Waal! that's a question! There's no tellin';  
I ain't my own master quite, I guess.  
Think I shall *have* to go some day,  
And fix some business far away.  
I—there's your mother beckonin' yonder,  
Looks kind o' huffish, you'd better run;  
(*Alone, sotto voce*) That girl's a sort of a shinin'  
wonder,  
The prettiest pout beneath the sun.

BIRD CHORUS.

Chickadee! chickadee!  
Green leaves on every tree;  
Winter goes, spring is here;  
Little mate, we loved last year.

Cheewink, veery, robin red,  
Shall we take another bride?  
We have plighted, we are wed.  
Here we gather happy-eyed.  
Little bride, little mate,  
Shall I leave you desolate?  
Men change; shall we change too?  
Men change; but we are true.  
If I cease to love thee best,  
May a black boy take my nest.

## EUREKA.

Soothin' it is, after so many a year,  
To hear the Sabbath bells a-ringing clear,  
The air so cool and soft, the sky so blue,  
The place so peaceful and so well-to-do. . . .  
Wonder what *she* is doing this same day?  
Thinkin' o' me in her wild Injin way,  
Listenin' and waitin', dreaming every minute  
The door will open, and this child step in it.

Poor gal! I seem to feel her eyes so bright  
A-followin' me about, morn, noon, and night!  
Sometimes they make me start and thrill right  
thro'—

She was a splendid figure, and that's true!  
Not jest like Christian women, fair and white,  
A heap more startlin' and a deal more bright;  
And as for looks, why many would prefer  
That Phœbe Ann, or some white gal like her!  
Don't know! *I've* got no call to judge; but see!  
The little white wench is so spry and free!  
And tho' she's but a mite, small as a mouse,  
She'd look uncommon pretty in a house.  
No business, tho', of mine—I've made my bed,  
And I must lie in it, as I have said.  
Ye...s, I'll go back—and stay—or bring her  
here,  
But there's no call to hurry yet, that's clear.  
She'll fret and be impatient for a while,  
And go on in the wild mad Injin style;

But she can't know, for a clear heathen's sake,  
The sort o' sacrifice I'm fix'd to make.  
Some wouldn't do it; Parson there would say  
It's downright throwing next world's chance  
away;  
But I've made up my mind—it's fix'd at present;  
And—there, let's try to think of something  
pleasant!

*THE CAT-OWL.*

Boohoo! boohoo!  
White man is not true;  
I have seen such wicked ways  
That I hide me all the days,  
And come from my hole so deep  
When the white man lies asleep.  
A misanthrope am I,  
And, tho' the skies are blue,  
I utter my warning cry—  
Boohoo!  
Boohoo! boohoo! boohoo!



## THE LOON.

*(Chuckling to himself on the pond.)*

Ha ! ha ! ha ! back again,  
Thro' the frost and fog and rain ;  
Winter's over now, that's plain.  
Ha ! ha ! ha ! back again !  
And I laugh and scream,  
For I love so well  
The bright, bright bream,  
And the pickerel !  
And soft is my breast,  
And my bill is keen,  
And I'll build my nest  
'Mid the sedge unseen.

I've travell'd—I've fish'd in the sunny south,  
In the mighty mere, at the harbour mouth ;  
I've seen fair countries, all golden and gay ;  
I've seen bright pictures that beat all wishing ;  
I've found fine colours afar away—  
But give me Purley Pond, for fishing ;

Of all the ponds, north, south, east, west,  
This is the pond I love the best ;  
For all is quiet, and few folk peep,  
    Save some of the innocent angling people ;  
And I like on Sundays, half asleep,  
All alone on the pool so deep,  
    To rock and hear the bells from the steeple.  
And I laugh so clear that all may hear  
The loon is back, and summer is near.  
Ha ! ha ! ha ! so merry and plain  
I laugh with joy to be home again.

*(A shower passes over ; all things sing.)*

The swift is wheeling and gleaming,  
    The brook is brown in its bed,  
Rain from the cloud is streaming,  
    And the Bow bends overhead.  
The charm of the winter is broken ! the last of  
    the spell is said !

The eel in the pond is quick'ning,  
The grayling leaps in the stream—  
What if the clouds are thick'ning?  
See how the meadows gleam !  
( The spell of the winter is shaken ; the world  
awakes from a dream !

The fir puts out green fingers,  
The pear-tree softly blows,  
The rose in her dark bower lingers,  
But her curtains will soon uncloze,  
The lilac will shake her ringlets over the blush  
of the rose.

The swift is wheeling and gleaming,  
The woods are beginning to ring,  
Rain from the cloud is streaming ;—  
There, where the Bow doth cling,  
Summer is smiling afar off, over the shoulder of  
Spring !

III.

PHŒBE ANNA.

DIMPLED, dainty, one-and-twenty,  
Rosy-faced and round of limb,  
Warm'd with mother-wit in plenty,  
Prudent, modest, spry yet prim,  
Lily-handed, tiny-footed,  
With an ankle clean and neat,  
Neatly gloved and trimly booted,  
Looking nice and smelling sweet !  
Self-possess'd, subduing beauty  
To a sober sense of duty,  
Chaste as Dian, plump as Hebe,  
Such I guess was little Phœbe.

O how different a creature  
From that other wondrous woman!  
Not a feeling, not a feature,  
Had these two fair flowers in common.  
One was tall and moulded finely,  
Large of limb, and grand of gaze,  
Rich with incense, and divinely  
Throbbing into passionate rays,—  
Lustrous-eyed and luscious-bosom'd,  
Beautiful, and richly rare,  
As a passion-flower full blossom'd,  
Born to Love and Love's despair.  
Such was Red Rose; and the other?  
Tiny, prudish, if you please,  
Meant to be a happy mother,  
With a bunch of huswife's keys.  
Prudent, not to be deluded,  
Happy-eyed and sober-mooded,  
Dainty, mild, yet self-reliant,  
She, as I'm a worthy singer,

Wound our vacillating giant  
Round her little dimpled finger.

Bit by bit, a bashful wooer,  
Fascinated unaware,  
Did Eureka draw unto her,  
Tame as any dancing bear.  
Not a finger did she stir,  
Yet he glow'd and gazed at her !  
Not a loving look she gave,  
Yet he watch'd her like a slave !  
He, who had been used to having  
Pleasures past all human craving,  
Who had idly sat and taken  
Showers of kisses on him shaken,  
Who had fairly tired of passion  
Ever felt in passive fashion,  
Now stood blushing like a baby  
In the careless eyes of Phœbe !  
  
Fare ye well, O scenes of glory,  
One bright sheet of golden sheen !

Love, the spirit of my story,  
    Wakens in a different scene.  
Down the lanes, so tall and leafy,  
    Falls Eureka's loving feet,  
Following Phœbe's, but in chief he  
    In the kitchen loves to sit,—  
Loves to watch her, tripping ruddy  
    In the rosy firelight glow,  
Loves to watch, in a brown study,  
    The warm figure come and go.

Half indifferent unto him,  
Far too wise to coax and woo him,  
Ill-disposed to waste affection,  
Full of modest circumspection,  
Quite the bright superior being,  
Tho' so tiny to the seeing,  
With a mind which penetrated,  
    In a sly and rosy mirth,

Thro' the face, and estimated  
 Grain by grain the spirit's worth,  
 Phœbe Anna, unenraptured,  
 Led the creature she had captured.

What is Love? A shooting star,  
 Flying, flashing, lost afar.  
 What is Man? A fretful boy,  
 Ever seeking some new toy.  
 What is Memory? Alas!  
 'Tis a strange magician's glass,  
 Where you pictures bright may mark  
 If you hold it *in the dark*.  
 Thrust it out into the sun,  
 All the picturing is done,  
 And the magic dies away  
 In the golden glow of day!

Coming back to civilisation,  
 Petted, fêted, shone on daily,



Was a novel dissipation,  
And Eureka revell'd gaily.  
Friendly faces flash'd around him,  
Church-bells tinkled in his ear,  
Cosy cronies sought and found him,  
Drowsietown look'd bright and clear.  
Parson Pendon and his lady  
(Respectability embodied)  
Welcom'd the stray sheep already,  
Matrons smiled, and deacons nodded.  
Uncle Pete had left him lately  
Malden Farm and all its store,  
And he found himself prized greatly  
As a worthy bachelor.  
All his roaming days seem'd over!  
Like a beast without a load,  
Grazing in the golden clover,  
In the village he abode!  
And he loved the tilth and tillage,  
All the bustle of the village—

Loved the reaping and the sowing,  
 Loved the music of the mill,  
 Loved to see the mowers mowing,  
 And the golden grasses growing,  
 Breast-deep, near the river still.  
 Civilisation altogether  
 Seem'd exactly to his notion !  
 Life was like good harvest weather,  
 Faintly flavoured with devotion.  
 Ruefully he cogitated,  
 With the peaceful spire in sight :—  
 “ Waal, I guess the thing was fated,  
 And it's hard to set it right.  
 Seems a dream, too ! now, I wonder  
 If it seems a dream to *her* !  
 After that first parting stunn'd her,  
 For a time she'd make a stir ;  
 P'raps, tho', when the shock was over,  
 Other sentiments might move her !  
 First she'd cry, next, she'd grow fretful,

Thirdly, riled, and then forgetful.  
After all that's done and said,  
    Injin blood is Injin ever !  
I'm a white skin, she's a red ;  
    Providence just made us sever.  
Parson says that sort of thing  
Isn't moral marrying !  
Tho' the simple creature yonder  
    Had no better education—  
Ignorance jest made her fonder,  
    And *I* yielded to temptation.  
Here's the question : I've been sinning—  
Wrong, clean wrong, from the beginning ;  
Can I make my blunder better  
    By repeating it again ?  
When mere Nature, if I let her,  
    Soon can cure the creature's pain ;  
She'll forget me fast enough—  
    And she's no religious feeling ;  
Injin hearts are always tough,

And their wounds are quick of healing.  
Heigho!"—here he sighed; then seeing  
Phœbe Ann trip by in laughter,  
Brightening up, the bother'd being  
Shook off care, and trotted after!

Had this final complication  
Not been added to the rest;  
Had not Fate with new temptation  
Drugg'd the conscience of his breast,  
Possibly his better nature  
Might have triumph'd o'er the treason;  
But the passions of the creature  
Rose in league with his false reason;  
On the side of civilisation  
Rose the pretty Civilisee:  
In a flush of new sensation,  
Conscience died, and Shame did flee.  
That bright picture, many-colour'd,  
Nature had flash'd before the dullard;

That wild ecstasy and rapture  
She had tamed unto his capture—  
That grand form, intensely burning  
To a lightning-flash of yearning—  
That fair face transfigur'd brightly  
Into starry rapture nightly—  
Those large limbs of living lustre,  
    Moving with a flower-like grace—  
Those great joys which hung in cluster,  
    Like ripe fruit in a green place—  
All had faded from his vision,  
    And instead, before his sight,  
Tript the pretty-faced precisian,  
    Deep and dimpled, warm and white!

In her very style of looking  
There was cognisance of cooking!  
From her very dress were peeping  
Indications of housekeeping!

You might gather in a minute,  
 As she lightly passed you by,  
 She could (with her whole heart in it!)  
 Nurse a babe or make a pie.  
 Yet her manner and expression  
 Shook the foolish giant's nerve,  
 With their quiet self-possession  
 And their infinite reserve.  
 In his former time the wooing  
 Had been all the *female's* doing;  
 He had waited while the other  
 Did his soul with raptures smother!  
 But 'twas quite another matter,  
 Here in civilisation's school!  
 And his heart went pitter-patter,  
 And he trembled like a fool.  
 Thro' the church the road lay to her;—  
*That* was written on her face,  
 Lawfully the man must woo her  
 In the manner of her race.

So by slow degrees he enter'd,  
Courtship's Maze so mystic-centred !  
Round and round the pathways wander'd,  
Made his blunders, puzzled, ponder'd ;  
Laugh'd at, laughing, scorn'd, imploring,  
Mad, enraged, distraught, adoring ;  
This way, that way, turning, twisting ;  
Yielding oft, and oft resisting :  
Gasping while the voice of Cupid  
Madden'd him with "Hither, stupid !"   
Seeking ever for the middle  
Of the green and golden riddle—  
Oft, just as he cried, "I've got it !"   
Finding *culs de sac*, and not it !  
Till at last his blunders ended  
On a summer morning splendid,  
When with vision glad and hazy,  
    Seeing Phœbe blushing falter,  
In the centre of the Maze, he  
    Found himself before—an Altar !

IV.

NUPTIAL SONG.

Where were they wedded ? In the holy house  
Built up by busy fingers ?  
All Drowsietown was quiet as a mouse  
To hear the village singers.

Who was the Priest ? 'Twas Parson Pendon,  
dress'd  
In surplice to the knuckles,  
Wig powder'd, snowy cambric on his breast,  
Silk stockings, pumps, and buckles.

What was the service ? 'Twas the solemn, stale,  
Old-fashion'd, English measure :  
"Wilt thou this woman take ? and thou this  
male ?"

"I will"—"I will"—with pleasure.



Who saw it done? The countless rustic eyes  
Of folk around them thronging.

Who shared the joy? The matrons with soft  
sighs,  
The girls with bright looks longing.

Who was the bride? Sweet Phœbe, dress'd in  
clothes

As white as she who wore 'em,  
Sweet-scented, self-possess'd,—one bright White  
Rose  
Of virtue and decorum.

Her consecration? Peaceful self-control,  
And modest circumspection—  
The sweet old service softening her soul  
To formulised affection.

Surveying with calm eyes the long, straight road  
Of matrimonial being,  
She wore her wedding clothes, trusting in God,  
Domestic, and far-seeing.

With steady little hand she sign'd her name,  
Nor trembled at the venture.  
What did the Bridegroom? Blush'd with sheepish  
shame,  
Endorsing the indenture.

O Hymen, Hymen! In the church so calm  
Began the old sweet story,  
The parson smiled, the summer fields breathed  
balm,  
The crops were in their glory.

Out from the portal came the wedding crew,  
All smiling, palpitating ;—  
And there was Jacob with the cart, bran new,  
And the white pony, waiting.

The girls waved handkerchiefs, the village boys  
Shouted, around them rushing,  
And off they trotted thro' the light and noise,  
She calm, the giant blushing.

Down the green road, along by glade and grove,  
They jog, with rein-bells jingling,  
The orchards pink all round, the sun above,  
She cold, Eureka tingling.

And round her waist his arm becomes entwined,  
But still her ways are coolish—  
“There’s old Dame Dartle looking! Don’t now!  
Mind  
The pony! Guess you’re foolish!”

Who rang the bells? The ringers with a will  
Set them in soft vibration.  
Hark! loud and clear, there chimes o’er vale and  
hill  
The nuptial jubilation.

**Part IV.**

**THE GREAT SNOW.**



I.

THE GREAT SNOW.

'TWAS the year of the Great Snow.

First the East began to blow  
Chill and shrill for many days,  
On the wild wet woodland ways.  
Then the North, with crimson cheeks,  
Blew upon the pond for weeks,  
Chill'd the water thro' and thro',  
Till the first thin ice-crust grew  
Blue and filmy; then at last  
All the pond was frosted fast,  
Prison'd, smother'd, fetter'd tight,  
Let it struggle as it might.

And the first Snow drifted down  
On the roofs of Drowsietown.

First the vanguard of the Snow ;  
Falling flakes, whirling slow,  
Drifting darkness, troubled dream ;  
Then a motion and a gleam ;  
Sprinkling with a carpet white  
Orchards, swamps, and woodland ways,  
Thus the first Snow took its flight,  
And there was a hush for days.

Mid that hush the Spectre dim,  
Faint of breath and thin of limb,  
HOAR-FROST, like a maiden's ghost,  
Nightly o'er the marshes crost  
In the moonlight : where she flew,  
At the touch of her chill dress  
Cobwebs of the glimmering dew  
Froze to silvern loveliness.

All the night, in the dim light,  
Quietly she took her flight;  
Thro' the streets she crept, and stayed  
In each silent window shade,  
With her finger moist as rain  
Drawing flowers upon the pane;—  
On the phantom flowers so drawn  
    With her frozen breath breath'd she;  
And each window-pane at dawn  
    Turn'd to crystal tracery!

Then the Phantom Fog came forth,  
Following slowly from the North;  
Wheezing, coughing, blown, and damp,  
He sat sullen in the swamp,  
Scowling with a blood-shot eye  
As the canvas-backs went by;  
Till the North Wind with a shout,  
Thrust his pole and poked him out;



And the Phantom with a scowl,  
Black'ning night and dark'ning day,  
Hooted after by the owl,  
Lamely halted on his way.

Now in flocks that ever increase  
Honk the armies of the geese,  
'Gainst a sky of crimson red  
Silhouetted overhead.  
After them in a dark mass,  
Sleet and hail hiss as they pass,  
Rattling on the frozen lea  
With their shrill artillery.  
Then a silence : then comes on  
Frost, the steel-bright Skeleton !  
Silent in the night he steals,  
With wolves howling at his heels,  
Seeing to the locks and keys  
On the ponds and on the leas.  
Touching with his tingling wand  
Trees and shrubs on every hand,

Till they change, transform'd to sight,  
Into dwarfs and druids white,—  
Icicle-bearded, frosty-shrouded  
Underneath his mantle clouded ;  
And on many of their shoulders,  
Chill, indifferent to beholders,  
Sits the barr'd owl in a heap,  
Ruffled, dumb, and fast asleep.  
There the legions of the trees  
Gather ghost-like round his knees ;  
While in cloudy cloak and hood,  
Cold he creeps to the great wood :—  
Lying there in a half-doze,  
While on finger-tips and toes  
Squirrels turn their wheels, and jays  
Flutter in a wild amaze,  
And the foxes, lean and foul,  
Look out of their holes and growl.  
There he waiteth, breathing cold  
On the white and silent wold.

In a silence sat the Thing,  
Looking north, and listening !  
And the farmers drave their teams  
Past the woods and by the streams,  
Crying as they met together,  
With chill noses, "*Frosty weather !*"  
And along the iron ways  
Tinkle, tinkle, went the sleighs.  
And the wood-chopper did hie,  
Leather stockings to the thigh,  
Crouching on the snow that strew'd  
Every corner of the wood.  
Still Frost waited, very still ;  
Then he whistled, loud and shrill ;  
Then he pointed north, and lo !  
The main Army of the Snow.

Black as Erebus afar,  
Blotting sun, and moon, and star,

Drifting, in confusion driven,  
Screaming, straggling, rent and riven,  
Whirling, wailing, blown afar  
In an awful wind of War,  
Dragging drifts of dead beneath,  
    With a melancholy groan,  
While the fierce Frost set his teeth,  
    Rose erect, and waved them on !

All day long the legions passed  
On an ever-gathering blast ;  
In an ever-gathering night,  
Fast they eddied on their flight.  
With a tramping and a roar,  
Like the waves on a wild shore ;  
With a motion and a gleam,  
Whirling, driven in a dream ;  
On they drave in drifts of white,  
Burying Drowsietown from sight,

Covering ponds, and woods and roads,  
Shrouding trees and men's abodes ;  
While the great Pond loaded deep,  
Turning over in its sleep,  
Groaned ;—but when night came, forsooth,  
Grew the tramp unto a thunder ;  
Wind met wind with wail uncouth,  
Frost and Storm fought nail and tooth,  
Shrieking, and the roofs rock'd under.  
Scared out of its sleep that night,  
Drowsietown awoke in fright ;  
Chimney-pots above it flying,  
Windows crashing to the ground,  
Snow-flakes blinding, multiplying,  
Snow-drift whirling round and round ;  
While, whene'er the strife seemed dying,  
The great North-wind, shrilly crying,  
Clash'd his shield in battle-sound !

Multitudinous and vast,  
Legions after legions passed.

Still the air behind was drear  
With new legions coming near ;  
Still they waver'd, wander'd on,  
Glimmer'd, trembled, and were gone.  
While the drift grew deeper, deeper,  
On the roofs and at the doors,  
While the wind awoke each sleeper  
With its melancholy roars.  
Once the Moon looked out, and lo !  
Blind against her face the Snow  
Like a wild white grave-cloth lay,  
Till she shuddering crept away.  
Then thro' darkness like the grave,  
On and on the legions drove.

When the dawn came, Drowsietown  
Smother'd in the snow-drift lay.  
Still the swarms were drifting down  
In a dark and dreadful day.

On the blinds the whole day long  
Thro' the red light shadows flitted.  
At the inn in a great throng  
Gossips gather'd drowsy-witted.  
All around on the white lea  
Farm-lamps twinkled drearily ;  
Not a road was now revealed,  
Drift, deep drift, at every door ;  
Field was mingled up with field,  
Stream and pond were smother'd o'er,  
Trees and fences fled from sight  
In the deep wan waste of white.

Many a night, many a day,  
Pass'd the wonderful array,  
Sometimes in confusion driven,  
By the dreadful winds of heaven ;  
Sometimes gently wavering by  
With a gleam and smothered sigh,

While the lean Frost still did stand  
Pointing with his skinny hand  
Northward, with the shrubs and trees  
Buried deep below his knees.  
Still the Snow passed ; deeper down  
In the snow sank Drowsietown.  
Not a bird stayed, big or small,  
Not a team could stir at all.  
Round the cottage window-frame  
Barking foxes nightly came,  
Scowling in a spectral ring  
At the ghostly glimmering.  
Old Abe Sinker at the Inn  
Heap'd his fire up with a grin,  
For the great room, warm and bright,  
Never emptied morn or night.  
Old folks shiver'd with their bones  
Full of pains and cold as stones.  
Nought was doing, nought was done,  
From the rise to set of sun.



Yawning in the ale-house heat,  
Shivering in the snowy street,  
Like dream-shadows, up and down,  
With their footprints black below,  
Moved the folk of Drowsietown,  
In the Year of the Great Snow!

## II.

### THE WANDERER.

SNOWING and blowing, roaring and rattle,  
Frost, snow, and wind are all busy at battle !  
O what a quaking, and shaking, and calling,  
Whitely, so whitely, the snow still is falling ;  
Stone-dead the earth is, shrouded all over,  
White, stiff, and hard is the snow-sheet above her,  
Deep, deep the drift is ; and tho' it is snowing,  
Blacker, yet blacker, the heavens are growing.  
Oh, what a night ! gather nearer the fire !  
Pile the warm pine-logs higher and higher ;  
Shut the black storm out, close tight the  
    shutters,  
Hark ! how without there it moans and it  
    mutters,

Tearing with teeth, claws, and fingers tremendous,  
Roof, wall, and gable!—now Angels defend us!  
There was a roar!—how it crashes and darkens!  
No wonder that Phœbe stops, trembles, and  
hearkens.

For black as the skies are, tho' hueless and  
ghastly,  
Stretches the wold, 'mid the snow falling fastly,  
Here in the homestead by Phœbe made cosy,  
All is so pleasant, so ruddy, and rosy.  
All by herself in the tile-paven kitchen,  
In white huswife's gown, and in apron bewitching,  
Flits little Phœbe, so busily making  
Corn bread and rye bread for Saturday's baking.  
See! in the firelight that round her is gleaming,  
How she is glowing, and glancing, and beaming,  
While all around her, in sheer perspiration  
Of an ecstatic and warm admiration,

Plates, cups, and dishes, delightedly glowing,  
Watch her sweet shade as 'tis coming and going,  
Catch her bright image as lightly she passes,  
Shine it about in plates, dishes, and glasses!  
Often in wonder all trembling and quaking,  
To feel how the homestead is swaying and shak-  
ing,  
All in a clatter they cry out together,  
"The roof will be off in a minute! What  
weather!"

. . . . A face in the darkness, a foot on the Snow,  
Is it there? Dost thou hear? Doth it come?  
Doth it go?  
Hush! only the gusts as they gather and grow.

O Phœbe is busy!—with little flour'd fingers,  
Like rosebuds in snow, o'er her labour she  
lingers;

And oft when the tumult is loudest she listens,  
Her eyes are intent, and her pretty face glistens  
So warm in the firelight. Despite the storm's  
crying,  
Sound, sound in their slumbers the farm-maids  
are lying ;  
The clock with its round face perspiring and  
blinking,  
Is pointing to bed-time, and sleepily winking.  
The sheep-dog lies basking, the grey cat is  
purring,  
Only the tempest is crying and stirring.  
The minutes creep on, and the wind still is busy,  
And Phœbe still hearkens, perplex'd, and un-  
easy.

. . . . A face in the wold where the snowdrift  
lies low.  
A footfall by night?—or the winds as they blow ?  
O hush ! it comes nearer, a foot on the Snow.

Phoebe's fond heart is beginning to flutter,  
She hearks for a footfall, a tap on the shutter ;  
She lists for a voice while the storm gathers  
shriller,

The drift's at the door, and the frost groweth  
chiller.

She looks at the clock, and she starteth back  
sighing,

While the cuckoo leaps out from his hole in it,  
crying

His name ten times over ; past ten, little singer !

"O what keeps Eureka ? and where can he  
linger ?"

The snow is so deep, and the ways are so dire,  
She thinks ; and a footfall comes nigher and  
nigher.

. . . . A face in the darkness, a face full of woe,  
A face and a footfall—they come and they go,  
Still nearer and nearer—a foot on the Snow !

Eureka's abroad in the town,—but 'tis later  
Than Drowsietown's bed-time. Still greater  
and greater

The fears of poor Phœbe each moment are  
growing ;

And sadder and paler her features are glowing.  
She steps to the door—lifts the latch—with wild  
scolding

The door is dashed open, and torn from her  
holding,

While shivering she peers on the blackness,  
vibrating

With a trouble of whiteness within it pulsating !  
The wind piles the drift at the threshold before her,  
The snow swarms upon her, around her, and o'er  
her,

But melts on the warmth of her face and her  
hands.

A moment in trouble she hearkens and  
stands.

•

All black and all still, save the storm's wild  
tabor!

And she closes the door, and comes back to her  
labour.

In vain—she grows paler—her heart sinks within  
her,

The cuckoo bursts out in a flutter (the sinner),

And chimes the half-hour—she sits now await-  
ing,

Her heart forbodes evil, her mind still debating;

The drift is so deep—could a false step within it

Have led to his grave in one terrible minute?

Could his foot have gone wand'ring away in the  
wold there,

While frozen and feeble he sank in the cold  
there?

'Tis his foot! . . . Nay, not yet! . . . There he's  
tapping, to summon

His wife to the door! Nay, indeed, little  
woman!



'Tis his foot at the door!—and he listens to hear  
her!

Nay, not yet; yet a footfall there *is*, coming  
nearer.

A face in the darkness, a foot on the Snow,  
Nearer it comes to the warm window-glow;  
O hush! thro' the wind, a foot-fall on the Snow.

Now heark, Phœbe, heark!—But she hearks not;  
for dreaming,

Her soft eyes are fixed on the fire's rosy gleam-  
ing;

Hands crossed on her knees she rocks to and fro;  
O heark! Phœbe, heark! 'tis a foot on the Snow.  
O heark! Phœbe, heark! and flit over the floor,  
'Tis a foot on the snow! 'tis a tap at the door!

Low, faint as hail tapping. . . Upstarting, she  
hearkens.

It ceases. The firelight sinks low, the room  
darkens.

She listens again. All is still. The wind  
blowing,  
The thrill of the tempest, the sound of the snowing.  
Hush again! something taps—a low murmur is  
heard.  
“Come in,” Phœbe cries; but the latch is not  
stirred.

Her heart’s failing fast; superstitious and mute  
She stands and she trembles, and stirs not a foot.  
She hears a low breathing, a moaning, a knock,  
Between the wind’s cry and the tick of the clock:  
Tap! tap! . . with an effort she shakes off her fear,  
Makes one step to the door; again pauses to  
hear.

The latch stirs; in terror and desperate haste  
She opens the door, shrinking back pallid-faced,  
And sees at the porch, with a thrill of affright,  
’Mid the gleaming of snow and the darkness of  
night,

A shape like a Woman's, a tremulous form  
White with the snow-flakes and bent with the  
    storm!  
Great eyes looking out through a black tatter'd  
    hood,  
With a gleam of wild sorrow that thrills through  
    the blood,  
A hand that outreaches, a voice sadly strung,  
That speaks to her soul in some mystical tongue!

The face in the darkness, the foot on the Snow,  
They have come, they are here, with their weal  
    and their woe:  
O long was the journey! the wayfarer slow!

Now Phœbe hath courage, for plainly the being  
She looks on is mortal, though wild to the  
    seeing—

Tall, spectral, and strange, yet in sorrow so  
human—

And the eyes, though so wild, are the eyes of a  
woman.

Her face is all hid ; but her brow and her hands,  
And the quaint ancient cloak that she wears as  
she stands,

Are those of the red race who still wander  
scatter'd—

The gipsies of white towns, dishonour'd, drink-  
shatter'd.

And strange, too, she seems by her tongue ; yet  
her words are

As liquid and soft as the notes of a bird are.

All this in a moment sees Phœbe ; then lo !

She sees the shape staggering in from the  
snow,

Revealing, as in to the fire-gleam she goes,

A face wild with famine, and haggard with  
woes,

For her hood falls away, and her head glimmers  
bare,  
And loosen'd around falls her dank dripping  
hair,  
And her eyes gleam like death—she would fall  
to the earth,  
But the soft little hands of kind Phoebe reach  
forth,  
And lead her, half swooning, half conscious,  
until  
She sinks in a chair by the fire and is still ;  
Still, death-like,—while Phoebe kneels down by  
her chair,  
And chafes her chill hands with a motherly care.

The face is upon her, it gleams in the glow,  
She hears a voice warning, still dreadful and  
low,  
Far back lies the footprint, a track in the Snow.

The woman was ghost-like, yet wondrously fair  
Through the gray cloud of famine, the dews of  
despair,

Her face hunger'd forth—'twas a red woman's face,  
Without the sunk eyeball, the taint of the race ;  
With strange gentle lines round the mouth of  
her, cast

By moments of being too blissful to last.

Her cloak fallen wide, as she sat there dis-  
traught,

Revealed a strange garment with figures en-  
wrought

In silk and old beads—it had once been most  
bright—

But frayed with long wearing by day and by  
night.

Mocassins she wore, and they, too, had been  
gay,

But now they were ragged and rent by the  
way ;

And bare to the cold was one foot, soft and red,  
And frozen felt both, and one trickled and bled.

The face of the stranger, 'tis worn with its woe,  
It comes to thee, Phoebe, but when shall it go?  
Far back go the footprints ; see ! black in the  
Snow.

But look ! what is that ? lo ! it lies on her breast,  
A small living creature, an infant at rest !  
So tiny, so shrivell'd, a mite of red clay,  
Warm, mummied, and wrapt in the Indian way.  
It opens its eyes, and it shrivels red cheeks ;  
It thrusts out its hand to the face, and it speaks  
With a cry to the heart of the mother ; and lo !  
She stirs from her swoon, and her famish'd  
cheeks glow,  
She rolls her wild eyes at the cry of distress,  
And her weak hands instinctively open her dress

That the babe may be fed ; and the touch of the  
child

When it comes to her bosom, warm, milky, and  
mild,

Seems blissful—she smiles—O, so faintly!—is  
blest

To feel its lips draw at the poor weary breast.

She closes her eyes, she is soothed, and her form

Within the great firelight grows happy and  
warm.

She hears not the wind, and she seems in a  
dream,

Till her orbs startle open amid the glad gleam ;

Her looks fall on Phœbe, who trembles for pity ;

She holds out her hands with a cry of  
entreaty ;

Her thoughts flow together—she knows the  
bright place,

She feels the sweet firelight, she sees the kind  
face—



For Phœbe unloosens her poor dripping cloak,  
And its damp rises up in the kitchen like  
smoke;

And Phœbe, with tender and matronly grace,  
Is wiping the snow and the wet from her face.  
She looks, sinks again, speaks with quick bird-  
like cries,

In her own thrilling speech; but her voice  
breaks and dies,

And her tears, through shut eyelids, ooze slowly  
and blindly

On the white little hands that are touching her  
kindly.

A face in the darkness, a face full of woe,  
Deep, deep, are the white ways, and bleak the  
winds blow;

O, long was the journey, the wayfarer slow,  
O, look! black as death, stretch the prints in  
the Snow.

III.

RETROSPECT: THE JOURNEY.

A FOOTPRINT—trace it back. O God!  
The bleeding feet, the weary road.  
Fly, Fancy, as the eagle flies,  
With beating heart and burning eyes,  
Fly on the north-wind's breath of power,  
Beat mile by mile, and hour by hour,  
Southward, still southward: shouldst thou tire  
Rest with the solar sphere of fire,  
Then rise again and take thy flight  
Across the continent in white,  
And track, still track, as thou dost go  
This bleeding footprint in the snow!  
Fly night by night, or day by day,  
Count the long hours, watch the wild way;

Then see, beneath thee sailing swift  
The white way melteth, and the drift  
Gathers no longer ; and instead  
Of snow a dreary rain is shed,  
On grassy ways, on dreary leas,  
And sullen pools that do not freeze.  
Now must thy keen eye look more near  
To trace the bloody footprint here ;  
But see ! still see ! it can be traced  
On the wet pastures of the waste ;  
On ! on, still on ! still southward sail,  
While tall trees shake in the shrill gale,  
And great streams gather, and things green  
Begin to show thro' the dim sheen.  
Here thro' a mighty wood the track  
Errs like a silk thread slowly back,  
And here birds singing go and come,  
Tho' far away the world is dumb.  
A river, and the track is lost.  
But when the stream is safely cross'd

Again, upon the further brim,  
The drop of blood, the footprint dim !  
O wingëd thought, o'er half a world  
Thou sailest with great wings unfurl'd,  
From white to dark, from dark to bright,  
From north to south, thou takest flight,  
Passing with constant waft of wing  
From winter climes to climes of spring,  
Swiftly thou goest, and still thy gaze  
Follows the footprint thro' wild ways ;  
Swiftly thou speedest south—O God !  
A thousand leagues of weary road !

A thousand leagues ! O see, the track,  
Clear to the soul's eye, wavers back  
Dim yet unbroken, linking slow  
Winter with spring, sunshine with snow,  
The dead leaf with the leaf still blowing,  
The frozen stream with the stream flowing ;  
Linking and binding silently  
Forgetfulness with memory,

Love living with love long at rest,  
A burning with a frozen breast,  
A Sunbeam Soul all light and seeing  
With a mere Beaver of a being.

Turn back, my Spirit, turn and trace  
The woman from her starting place,  
Whence with fix'd features and feet free  
She plunged into the world's great Sea,—  
A fair sweet swimmer, strong of limb,  
Most confident in God, and *him*,  
And found herself by wild winds blown,  
In a great waste, alone, alone!

Long with the patience of her race,  
Had Red Rose waited for the face  
That came not, listen'd for the voice  
That made her soul leap and rejoice.  
They came not: all was still. For days,  
She like a fawn in the green ways

Wander'd alone; and night by night  
She watch'd heaven's eye of liquid light  
With eyes as luminous as theirs,  
'Mid tremulous sighs and panted prayers.  
He came not: all was still: her tread  
Grew heavier on the earth, her head  
Hung sadder, and her weeping eyes,  
Look'd more on earth than on the skies:  
Like a dead leaf she droop'd in woe,  
Until one day, with a quick throe,  
She turn'd to crimson as she wept,  
And lo! within her something leapt!

Flesh of her flesh, the blossom broke,  
Blood of her blood, she felt it stir,  
Within her life another woke  
With still small eyes, and look'd at her!  
And with a strange ecstatic pain,  
She breathed, and felt it breathe again.

She seem'd to see it night and day,  
Coming along from far away  
Down a green path, and with fierce flame  
She rush'd to meet it as it came,  
But as she rush'd the shape did seem  
Suddenly to dissolve in dream,  
And daily she stood hungering sore,  
Till far off it arose once more.

But as the life within her grew  
A horror took away her breath,  
Lest when her cruel kinsmen knew  
Her secret, they should deal her death.  
For now the aged Chief, with whom  
Her happy life had broke to bloom,  
Along the dark deep path had wound  
That leads to God's great hunting-ground;  
And a young brave of the red band  
Was proudly wooing for her hand;—

Not in white fashion fervently,  
Not with wild vows and on his knee ;  
Rather a proud majestic wooer  
Who felt his suit an honour to her,  
And who his formal presents sent  
In calm assumption of consent,  
And never dream'd the maid would dare  
To turn her tender eyes elsewhere ;—  
Nor dared she openly disdain  
A suit so solemn and so plain ;  
But with a smile half agonized  
She (as we whites say) temporized !

She found two friendly women, who,  
Tho' hags in form, were kind and true,  
And with their aid, when the hour came,  
She bare her child and hid her shame.  
As Eve bare Cain, upon a bed  
Of balsam and of hemlock, spread  
By those kind hands, in the deep woods,  
Amid the forest solitudes,



With myriad creatures round her flying,  
And every creature multiplying ;  
In the warm greenwood, hid from sight,  
She held her babe to the glad light,  
And brighten'd. As she linger'd there,  
She had a dream most sadly fair,  
She seem'd upon a river-side,  
Gazing across a crystal tide,  
And o'er the tide in dying swells  
There came a burthen as of bells  
Out of a mist ; then the mist clear'd,  
And on the further bank appear'd  
A dim shape fondly beckoning—  
Her warrior tall, her heart's white King !  
She cried, and woke ; the dream was nought ;  
But ever after her wild thought  
Yearn'd with an instinct mad and dumb  
To seek him, since he did not come.  
She thought, " My warrior beckons me !  
He would be here if he were free.

And if I stay my kinsmen wild  
Will surely slay me and the child ;  
But there, with *him* in that fair place,  
Where he is chief of his own race,  
All will be well ; for he is good,  
Of milder race and gentler blood ;  
And tho' I die upon the way  
'Twill not be worse than if I stay,  
Butcher'd and shamed in all men's sight  
When my sad secret comes to light.  
'Tis well ! this paper in my hand  
Will guide my footsteps thro' the land,  
And when I strengthen I will fly,  
And I will find my lord, or die ! ”  
'Twas thought, 'twas done ; at dead of night,  
She clasp'd her infant and took flight.

One guide she had—the luminous star,  
On the horizon line afar ;

For thither oft Eureka's hand  
Had pointed, telling her his land  
Lay thitherward : gazing thereon,  
That night she busied to be gone,  
It seem'd a lamp that he had placed  
To guide her footsteps o'er the waste.  
She gather'd food, then to her back  
Attach'd the babe, and took the track,  
Waving her hands in wild " adieu "   
To those kind women dark of hue,  
Who crouching on a dark ascent  
Moan'd low, and watch'd her as she went.  
There shone the star liquid and clear,  
His voice seem'd calling in her ear,  
The night was warm as her desire,  
And forth she fled on feet of fire.

One guide ; she had another too :  
A crumpled paper coarse to view,  
Wherein she had kept with tender care  
A little lock of precious hair,

And on the paper this was written plain :

“EUREKA HART, DROWSIETOWN, STATE OF  
MAINE.”

O poor dark bird, nought still knew she  
Of this wild world's geography!  
Less than the swallow sailing home,  
Less than the petrel 'mid the foam,  
Less than the mallard winging fast  
O'er solitary fens and vast,  
To seek his birth-place far away  
In regions of the midnight day.  
She only knew that somewhere *there*,  
In some strange land afar or near,  
Under that star serene and fair,  
*He* waited ; and her soul could hear  
*His* summons ; even as a dove  
Her soul's wild pinions she unfurl'd,  
And sought in constancy and love  
Her only refuge in the world !

A footprint—trace it on!—

For days

Her path was on great pasture ways :  
League after league of verdurous bloom  
Of star-like flowers and faint perfume,  
And from her coming leapt in fear  
The antelope and dappled deer ;  
And everywhere around her grew  
Ripe fruit and berries that she knew,  
While glistening in the golden gleam  
Glanced many a mere and running stream.  
A happy land of flocks and herds,  
And many-colour'd water-birds !  
Oft, sailing with her as she went,  
The eagle eddied indolent  
On soft swift wing ; and with his wild  
Dark dewy eye glanced at her child,  
Nor till she scream'd and arms upthrew,  
Turn'd, and on sullen wing withdrew.

But sweet it was by night to rest  
And give her little babe the breast,  
And O each night with eyes most dim  
She felt one night more near to *him* :  
And all the pains of the past day,  
With all the perils of the way,  
Seem'd as a dream ; and lo ! afar  
She saw the smiling of the Star.

'Twere but a weary task to trace  
Her footprint on from place to place,  
From day to day ; to sing and tell  
What daily accidents befell,  
What dangers threaten'd her, what eyes  
Watch'd her go by in wild surprise,  
What prospects blest her, where and when  
She look'd on life and met with men.  
Enough to say, thro' light and dark,  
Straight, as an arrow to its mark,

The woman flew ; wise in the ways  
Of her own race, she hid from gaze  
When flitting forms against the sky  
Warn'd her that Indians might be nigh ;  
And when the wild beast dreadful-eyed  
Approach'd her, with shrill shriek she cried,  
Until the bloody coward shook  
Before the red rage of her look.  
And tho' the prospect changed all days,  
It did not change to *her* ; whose gaze  
Saw these things only : the white star  
On the horizon line afar,  
And the quick beckoning of a hand  
Out of another, sweeter land.

The long sad road—the way so dreary  
The very *Fancy* falters weary !  
The very soul is dazed, and shows  
Only a gleam of wild tableaux :  
In midst of each that shape of woe  
Still straggling northward—slow, slow, slow.

. . . A river deep. She cannot find  
A wading-place to suit her mind ;  
But on the bank sets quietly,  
Amid the sunflowers tall as she,  
Her little babe : then slips her dress  
And stands in mother-nakedness ;  
Then in a bundle on her head  
She ties her raiment yellow and red,  
And swimming o'er the waters bright,  
With glistening limbs of liquid light,  
Sets down her burden dry, and then,  
With swift stroke sailing back again,  
Seeks the small babe where it doth lie,  
And with her right hand holds it high,  
While with the other slow she swims,  
Trailing her large and liquid limbs ;  
Then dripping wades to the far shore,  
And clothes her loveliness once more . . .

. . . On a lone plain she now is found,  
Where troglodytes dwell underground.



Wild settlers peering from their caves,  
Like dead men moving in their graves,  
Rise round her as she comes, and glare  
With hungry eyes thro' horrent hair ;  
But they are gentle, and they give  
Herbs and black bread that she may live,  
And in their caves the weary one  
Rests till the rising of the sun ;  
Then the wild shapes around her stand  
Reading the paper in her hand,  
And point her northward ; and she flies  
Fleet-footed, while with wandering eyes  
They stand and watch her shape fade dim  
Across the dark horizon-rim . . .

. . . She stands on a great river's bank,  
'Mid noxious weeds and sedges dank ;  
And on the yellow river's track,  
Jagged with teeth like snags jet black,

The ferryman in his great boat,  
A speck on the broad waste, doth float,  
Approaching to the water's side,  
But lengthways drifting with the tide.  
She leaps into the boat, and o'er  
The waste to the dark further shore,  
Slowly they journey; as he rows  
The paper to the man she shows,  
Who reads; and as she springs to land,  
He too points northward with his hand . . .

. . . See, with a crimson glare of light,  
A log-town burneth in the night!  
And flying forth with all their goods  
Into the sandy solitudes,  
The people wild, with bloodless cheeks,  
Glare at a wanderer who speaks  
In a strange tongue; but as they fly  
Are dumb, and answer not her cry . . .

. . . Now thro' a land by the red sun  
Scorch'd as with fire, the lonely one  
Treads slowly ; and ere long she hears  
The sharp cry of shrill overseers,  
Driving black gangs that toiling tramp  
Thro' cotton fields and sugar swamp.  
Here first the hand of man is raised  
To harm her—for with eyes amazed  
She nears a City, and is cast  
Into a slave-pen foul and vast,  
Seized as an Ethiop slave. From thence  
She in an agony intense  
Is thrust ; but not ere eager eyes  
Have mark'd her beauty as a prize.  
But God is good, and one blest day  
She hears upon the burning way  
An aged half-caste burnt and black  
Speak in her tongue and answer back.  
These twain wring hands upon the road,  
And in the stranger's poor abode

She sleeps that night; but with the sun  
She wakens, and is pointed on . . .

. . . Now in a waggon great she lies,  
And shaded from the brazen skies,  
Slowly she jogs, and all at rest  
She gives her little babe the breast.  
Happy she rests; hears in her dream  
The driver's song, the jingling team.  
With jet black cheek and bright red lip,  
The negro drives and cracks his whip,  
Singing plantation hymns to God,  
And grinning greetings with a nod . . .

. . . Now, toiling on a dusty way,  
She begs her bread from day to day,  
And some are good to her and mild,  
And most are soften'd by the child.  
Once, as she halts at a great door,  
Hungry and weary, sick and sore,

A lovely lady white as milk  
Glides past her in her rustling silk ;  
Then pauses, questioning, and sees  
The sleeping babe upon her knees,  
And takes the paper from her hand,  
And reading it doth understand ;  
Then stoops to *kiss* the child with cold  
Kind lips, and gives the mother gold . . .

. . . Now in a mighty boat, among  
A crowd of people strange of tongue,  
She saileth slow, with wandering sight,  
On a vast river day and night ;  
All day the prospect drifteth past—  
Swamp, wood, and meadow, fading fast,—  
With lonely huts, and shapes that stand  
On the stream's bank, and wave the hand ;  
All night with eyes that look aloft,  
Or close in sleep, she sails ; but oft

The blackness takes a deeper frown,  
And the wild eyeballs of a town  
Flash open as the boat goes by,  
And she awakens with a cry . . .

On, on, and on—O the blind quest,  
The throbbing heart, the aching breast !  
And O the faith, more steadfast far  
Than aught on earth, or any star ;  
The faith that never ceased to shine,  
The strength of constancy divine,  
The will that warm'd her as she went  
Across a mighty continent,  
Unknown, scarce help'd, from land to land,  
With that poor paper in her hand !

The vision falls. The figure fades  
Amid the lonely forest glades,  
Fringing the mighty inland seas.  
I see her still ; and still she flees

Onward, still onward ; tho' the wind  
Blows cold, and nature looks unkind :  
The dead leaves fall and rot ; the chill  
Damp earth-breath clings to vale and hill,  
The birds are sailing south ; and hark !  
As she fares onward thro' the dark,  
The honking wild geese swiftly sail  
Amid a slowly gathering gale.  
All darkens ; and around her flow  
The cold and silence of the Snow.

There, she is lost ; in that white gleam  
She fadeth, let her fade, in dream !  
Poor bird of the bright summer, now  
She feels the kisses on her brow  
Of Frost and Fog ; and at her back  
Another Shadow keeps the track.  
'Tis winter now ; and birds have flown  
Southward, to seek a gladder zone ;

One, only one, doth northward fare,  
And dreams to find her summer *there*.  
God help her ! look not ! let her go  
Into the realm of the Great Snow !



IV.

THE JOURNEY'S END.

BACK in a swoon, with haggard face,  
Falleth the woman of wild race,  
Dumb, cold as stone, her weary eyes  
Fix'd as in very death she lies—  
While little Phœbe trembling stands,  
Wetting her lips, chafing her hands,  
Trembling, almost afraid to stir  
For wonder, as she looks at her :  
So weird, so wild a shape, she seems  
Like some sad spirit seen in dreams ;  
Beauteous of face beyond belief,  
And yet so worn with want and grief.

The clock ticks low within. Without  
The wind still wanders with shrill shout.

The cuckoo strikes the hour—*midnight* !  
And Phœbe starteth in affright.

“ O what can keep Eureka still ? ”  
She thinks, and listens with a thrill  
For his foot's sound. It doth not come.  
The clock ticks low. All else is dumb.  
And still the woman lieth there,  
Down drooping in the great arm-chair,  
With hanging hands, chin on her breast,  
And 'neath her cloak the babe at rest.  
She doth not breathe, she doth not moan,  
But lieth like a thing of stone.  
“ O God,” thinks Phœbe, deadly white,  
“ If she be dead ! ” and faint with fright,  
Chafeth the fingers marble cold  
That seem to stiffen in her hold.  
She cannot stir, she cannot move,  
To wake the maids who sleep above ;

Her heart is fluttering in its fear,  
"Eureka! O that he were here!"

[*He* hurries not! Perchance some sense  
Of danger may detain him hence.  
He would not hasten, if he knew  
The curious sight he has to view.  
Few mortal husbands, red or white,  
Would care to wear his shoes this night.]

"What can she be?" thinks little Phœbe,  
"Some Indian tramp—a beggar maybe—  
And yet she's got a different mien  
To such of these as I have seen.  
Her face is like a babe's—she's young,  
And she can speak no other tongue  
Than Indian. When she spoke her words  
Came like the gurgling notes of birds.  
Poor thing! and out on such a night,  
When all the world is wild and white

With the Great Snow. And O, to see  
The little babe upon her knee!  
I wonder now, if I should take it  
From her cold bosom, I should wake it—  
Poor little child!" And as she spake  
Those words she saw the baby wake,  
Sweet-smiling in the fire's red streaks,  
With beaded eyes and rosy cheeks.  
Then Phœbe started. "Why," thought she,  
"The babe is near as fair as me!  
With just one dark flash on its face  
To show the taint of Indian race.  
That's strange! Poor little outcast mite!  
I guess his *father's* skin is white."  
Then, for a moment, Phœbe's mien  
Wore an expression icy-keen,  
As now in scrutiny amazed  
The sleeping woman's hand she raised,  
And dropt it quickly, murmuring—  
"She is no wife! she wears no ring!"

So for a space her features took  
Pure matronhood's Medusa-look,—  
That look, so pitiless and lawful,  
Which oft makes little women awful ;  
And which weak women, when they fall,  
Dread in their sisters worst of all !  
But bless thee, Phœbe, soon the child  
Softened thy face and made it mild ;  
To see it lie so bright and pretty,  
Thy woman's eyes were moist for pity,  
And soon thy tears began to flow—  
“ Poor soul ! and out in the Great Snow ! ”

E'en as she spake the stranger stirr'd.

The cold lips trembled with no word.  
The fingers quiver'd, the great eyes  
Open'd in stupefied surprise,  
A deep sigh tore her lips apart,  
And with a thickly-throbbing heart

She gazed around. The ruddy light,  
The cosy kitchen warm and bright,  
The clock's great shining face, the human  
Soft kindly eyes of the white woman,  
Came like a dream—her eyes she closed  
A moment with a moan, and dozed.  
Then suddenly her soul was 'ware  
Of the wild quest that brought her there!  
She open'd eyes—a flush of red  
Flash'd to her cheeks so chill and dead—  
She murmur'd quick with quivering lips,  
And, trembling to the finger tips,  
Thrust her chill hand into her breast,  
Under the ragged cloak, in quest  
Of something precious hidden there!—  
'Tis safe,—she draws it forth with care;  
A wretched paper, torn and wet,  
Thumb-mark'd with touch of many a hand,  
'Tis there—'tis safe—she has it yet,  
Her heart's sole guide, the amulet,  
That led her lone feet thro' the land!

But first, unto her lips of ice  
She holds it eagerly, and thrice  
She *kisses* it; then, with wild eyes  
And unintelligible cries,  
Holds it to Phœbe. “Read!” cries she,  
In her own tongue, distractedly;  
And little Phœbe understands,  
And takes the paper in her hands,  
And on the hearth she stoopeth low,  
To read it in the firelight glow.

Now courage, Phœbe! steel thy spirit!  
A blow is coming—thou must bear it!

Slowly, so vilely it is writ,  
Her unskill'd eyes decipher it;  
So worn it is with snow and rain,  
That scarce a letter now is plain,  
And every red and ragged mark  
Is smudged with handling, dim, and dark.

"E-U-R-E"—in letters blurr'd  
She spells. "*Eureka !*" that's the word.  
But why does little Phœbe start  
As she reads on ? "*Eureka Hart*"—  
*His* name, her husband's name ; and now  
The red blood flames on cheek and brow !  
She stops—she quivers—glares wild-eyed  
At the red woman at her side,  
Who watches *her* with one sick gaze  
Of wild entreaty and amaze :  
Then she spells on—her features turn  
To marble, though her bright eyes burn,  
For all the bitter truth grows plain.

"EUREKA HART, DROWSIETOWN, STATE OF  
MAINE."

First lightning flash of fierce surprise !  
It burns her cheek, and blinds her eyes.  
Again she looks on the strange creature's  
Tall, ragged form and beauteous features.



Next lightning flash, and muffled thunder—  
“The baby’s skin is white—no wonder!”  
And she perceives, as plain as may be,  
All the event—down to the baby!  
Last flash, the whole dark mystery lighting,—  
“Why, it’s Eureka’s own handwriting!”

Ay, little wife!—and these dim stains  
Are life-blood from Eureka’s veins;  
In blood the words were writ by him,  
And see! how faded and how dim!

The woman took her hand. She shook  
The touch away with tiger-look,  
And trembling gazed upon her. So  
She stagger’d underneath the blow,  
Watch’d by the stranger’s luminous eyes  
In mingled stupor and surprise;  
Ah! little did the stranger guess  
The situation’s bitterness,

But in her own wild tongue did say,  
“Where is my love? show me the way!”

A hand upon the latch. Both start,—  
The door swings wide—the drift sweeps in.  
Footsteps: and lo! Eureka Hart,  
Snow-cover'd, muffled to the chin.

v.

FACE TO FACE.

WARMLY muffled to the chin there,  
Blind with snow-drift, stamping, waiting,  
Dazzled by the light within there,  
Stood the giant oscillating.  
Then he closed the door, and turning  
His great back against it, smiled !  
Slightly tipsy, not discerning  
The red woman and her child.  
By the great eyes dimly blinking,  
Feebly leering at his mate,  
Phœbe saw he had been drinking,  
While he hiccup'd, " Guess I'm late !"  
So he stood ; when, wildly ringing,  
Rose a scream upon the air,

'Twas the Indian woman, springing,  
Gasping, gazing, from her chair.

Round her face the black hair raining,  
To her heart the baby straining,  
Gasping, gazing, half believing  
'Twas some phantom soul-deceiving,  
Bound as by a spell she linger'd,  
Pointing at him fiery-finger'd ;  
And the giant mighty-jointed,  
Groan'd and stagger'd as she pointed,  
Thinking, while his heart beat quicker,  
'Twas some phantom born of liquor ! . . .  
While he rubb'd his eyes and mutter'd,  
While he roll'd his eyes distress'd,  
O'er the floor a thin form flutter'd,  
Cried, and sank upon his breast!

Phœbe screams. Stagger'd and blinded,  
Stands the creature beaver-minded,

While upon his heart reposes  
Cheeks he knows full well—Red Rose's !  
Half repulsing and half holding,  
While her arms are round him folding,  
Gaunt he stands in pain afflicted,  
An impostor self-convicted !  
While her great eyes, upward-looking,  
Not reproaching, not rebuking,  
Trusting, loving, lustre-pouring,  
Happy now, and still adoring,  
Burn on his ; and her dark passion  
Masters her in the old fashion,  
Thrills the frail thin figure, burning  
With a lightning flash of yearning,  
Lights the worn cheeks and the faded  
Forehead with her dark locks shaded,  
Thrills, transfigures, seems to lend her  
All the soul of her old splendour ;—  
So that all the rags upon her,  
All the anguish and dishonour,

All the weary days of wandering,  
All the weeping, plaining, pondering,  
All the sorrow, all the striving  
Ne'er a man could face surviving,  
All the Past, burns iridescent  
In one Rainbow of the Present.  
Sée! she feasts on every feature  
Madly, like a famish'd creature,  
Reads each line in rapture, reeling  
With the frantic bliss of feeling;  
Kindling now her arms are round him,  
Murmuring madly, she hath found him,  
He is folded close unto her,  
And the bliss of God thrills thro' her!

Her white Chief, whom God had brought her  
From the shining Big Sea Water,  
Her great Chief of the pale races,  
With wise tongues and paintless faces!

More than mortal in her seeing,  
Glorious, grand, a god-like being !  
Nor, tho' Phoebe stands there, looking  
Most distractedly rebuking,  
Doth this child of the red nation  
Comprehend the situation !  
Not a thought hath she to move her,  
Save that all the quest is over !  
He is living, he is near her,  
Grander, greater, braver, dearer !  
No reproach in her fixed gaze is  
While her eyes to his she raises—  
Only hungering and thirsting  
Of a heart with pleasure bursting;  
Only a supreme sensation  
Of ecstatic admiration,  
Melting in one soul-flush splendid  
Years of heart-ache past and ended.  
  
Her white Warrior, her fair Master !  
Hers, all hers, despite disaster !

Hers, her own, that she may cry for,  
Cling to, smile to, trust in, die for !  
Is she *blind* ? Hath the glad wonder  
Struck her to the soul and stunn'd her ?  
Sees she not on every feature  
The sick horror of the creature ?  
Sober now, and looking ghastly,  
Trembling while his breath comes fastly,  
With the cold sweat on his forehead,  
Shrinking as from something horrid,  
Paralyzed with guilt, despairing,  
Not at *her* but Phœbe glaring,  
Speechless, helpless, and aghast,  
Stands the giant, pinion'd fast.

Yes, her eyes are blindly gleaming  
Thro' the warm tears wildly streaming—  
Yes, her soul *is* blind (God guide her !);  
Hunger, thirst, and grief, have tried her,  
She is feeble, not perceiving  
Cause for bitterness or grieving ;



She is foolish, never guessing  
That her visit is distressing,  
She is mad, mad, mad, presuming  
He has waited for her coming !

No, she will *not* see the horror  
Fate hath been preparing for her—  
All the little strength remaining  
She will wildly spend in straining,  
In a rapturous confusion,  
To her breast the old delusion.  
Hark ! her lips speak, words are springing  
Like the notes of a bird singing,  
Like a fountain sunward throbbing  
With a silvern song of sobbing ;  
Not a word is clear, but all  
Rise in rapture, blend, and fall !

Suddenly the rapture falters,  
Her hands loosen, her face alters,

Drawing from him softly, quickly,  
While he staggers white and sickly,  
She, with grace beyond all beauty,  
Doth her ragged cloak unloose,  
Then, with looks of loving duty,  
Shows Eureka—the papoose!

Tiny, pink-cheek'd, blushing brightly,  
Like a mummy roll'd up tightly;  
Puffing cheeks, and fat hands spreaning  
In an ecstasy unmeaning;  
Blinking, his pink cheeks in gathers,  
With *blue* eyes just like his father's!  
In his pretty face already  
Just the image of his daddy!  
Stolid, stretching hands to pat him,  
Lies the baby, smiling at him!

Still stands little Phoebe, panting,  
This, and only this, was wanting;

Now, with all her courage rallied,  
She between them—panting, pallid—  
Stands ; and, keen-eyed as an eagle,  
    Tho' as fluttering as a linnet,  
Folds her virtue, like a regal  
    Robe, around her ; frowning in it.  
Yet so wildly doth she flutter,  
Not a sentence can she utter ;  
Stately, speechless, with eyes blazing,  
Stands the little White Rose, gazing !

Suddenly, with acclamation,  
On that group of desperation  
Bursts the Storm !—With one wild rattle  
Of the elements at battle,  
With one horrid roar and yelling,  
Tearing, tugging at the dwelling,  
Strikes the Wind ; the latch is lifted,  
    With a crash wide swings the door ;  
In the blinding Snow is drifted,  
    With a melancholy roar !

'Tis the elements of Nature  
Flocking round the weary creature,  
Crying to her, while they blind her,  
"Come to *us* ! for we are kinder !  
Cross the cruel, fatal portal  
Of the miserable mortal ;  
Come, our hands are cold but loving !  
Back into the midnight moving,  
In some spot of silence creeping,  
Find a quiet place for sleeping.  
We, the Winds, will dig it straightway,  
Far beyond the white man's gateway.  
I, the Snow, will place above it  
My soft cheek, and never move it ;  
With my beauty, white and chilly,  
Lying o'er thee like a lily,  
Dress'd for sleep in snowy clothing  
Thou shalt slumber, hearing nothing.  
We will freeze thine ears from hearing  
His hard foot when it is nearing ;

We will close thine eyes from conning  
His that look upon thee shunning.  
We will keep thee, we will guard thee,  
Till the kiss of God reward thee.  
Come, O come !” Thus, unavailing,  
Sounds the elemental wailing.

Peace, O Winds, your weary voices  
Teach her nothing : she rejoices !  
Hush, O Snow, let your chill hands not  
Touch her cheek ; she understands not !  
Hush ! But God, who is that other,  
    Standing beckoning unto her ?  
Winds and Snows, 'tis your pale brother,  
    And his chilly breath thrills thro' her.  
Ay, the Shadow there is looming  
Thro' the tempest and the glooming !  
O'er each path her feet have chosen—  
Mountains, valleys, rivers frozen ;

Creeping near, with eyes that glisten,  
When her cold foot flagg'd, to listen ;  
As a bloodhound, ever flitting,  
Night-time, day-time, never quitting ;  
Sure of scent, with thin foot trailing  
In the snowdrift, never failing,  
He has follow'd, follow'd slow,  
That red footprint in the Snow !  
Now he finds her white and wan,—  
'Tis the Winter, Peboan.

Spare her ! Who would bid him spare her ?  
Let him trance her and upbear her  
In his arms, and softly place her  
Where no cruel foot may trace her.  
Let her die ! See, his eyes con her,  
And his icy hand is on her ;  
Thro' her form runs the quick shiver,  
Light as leaves her eyelids quiver,

And with quick, spasmodic touches,  
The beloved form she clutches;  
From the cruelty of man,  
Take her gently, Peboan!

Phœbe shivers. To her reaching,  
With an agony beseeching,  
Red Rose holds the babe; one moment,  
With a shrug of bitter comment,  
Phœbe shrinks; then, being human,  
Frighten'd, thinking Death is there,  
Quietly the little woman  
Takes the burden unaware.  
Not a breath too soon; for, rocking  
In the roaring of the storm,  
With the snow flakes round her flocking,  
And the wild wind round her form,  
With a cry of anguish, prone  
Falls the wanderer, cold as stone!

## VI.

### PAUGUK.

O POOR Red Rose ! rent by the storm !  
The flame still flickered in her form.

Moveless she lay ; but in her breast  
The tumult was not quite at rest.

They raised her up, and, with soft tread,  
They bore her slowly to a bed.

And little Phœbe's heart did ache,  
Despite her wrongs, for pity's sake ;

And little Phœbe's own kind hands  
(God bless them !) loosed the wand'rer's bands,



Took softly off the dripping dress,  
With eyes that wept for kindness,

Wrung the wet hair, and smoothed it right,  
And clad the Red Rose all in white.

There, all in white, on a white bed,  
The Red Rose hung her heavy head.

Around her was a roar, a gleam,  
And she was struggling in a dream.

Faces round her went and came,  
Her great eyes flash'd with fading flame.

For all the time, fever'd and sore,  
She did her journey yet once more ;

Once again her Soul's feet trod  
The pathless wild, the weary road ;

Once again she sail'd along  
The mighty meres and rivers strong ;

Once again, with weary tread,  
She stagger'd on, and begged her bread ;

Once again she falter'd slow  
Into the realm of the Great Snow.

Oh, the roaring in her brain !  
Oh, the wild winds that moan again !

Against her, as she clasps her child,  
The hail is driven, the drift is piled.

She sees a light that shines afar ;  
It beckons her—a hand, a Star.

She hears a voice afar away ;  
It calls to her ; she must not stay.

Around her clouds of tempest roll,  
And, oh ! the storm within her soul !

But now and then, amid the snow,  
There comes a silence and a glow ;

And white she lies, in a white room,  
And some one watches in the gloom.

Close by the bed where she doth rest,  
Sits, with the babe upon her breast,

A little woman, waiting there,  
Despite her wrongs, so kind, so fair !

E'en as she wakens, wild and weak,  
Red Rose sits up, and tries to speak,

And reaching out, with a thin moan,  
She takes a white hand in her own ;

But swoons once more, and hears again  
The tempest roaring in her brain!

Now as she dreams, with fever'd cries,  
Phœbe looks on with quiet eyes;

And Phœbe and her maidens go  
Softly and lightly to and fro.

Down-stairs by the great fire of wood,  
Alone, Eureka Hart doth brood;

And when his little wife descends  
He scowls, and eyes his finger-ends.

She scarcely looks into his face,  
But orders him about the place;

And at her will he flies full meek,  
With red confusion on his cheek.

Her eyes are swoll'n with tears ; to him  
Her face is pitiless and grim.

But as she reascends the stairs  
Her pale cheek flushes unawares.

In pity half, and half in scorn,  
She sees again that shape forlorn.

She cannot love her ; yet her heart  
Flutters, and takes the wand'rer's part.

Her thoughts are angry, weak and wild,  
Yet carefully she tends the child.

Often she prays, with heart astir,  
The white man's God to strengthen her.

And thus, despite her heart's distress,  
She doth a deed of blessedness.

Silent for days by that bedside  
She waiteth, watching, weary-eyed :

Not all alone ; by her unseen,  
Sitteth another, strange of mien.

He squatteth in the corner there,  
And looketh on through his thin hair.

Clad in fantastic Indian weeds,  
With calumet and skirt of beads,

Gaunt, haggard, hungry, woebegone,  
Waiteth Pauguk, the Skeleton !

For wintry Peboan hath fled,  
Leaving this shadow in his stead.

And there he waits, unseen, unheard ;  
And as a serpent on a bird

Fixeth his glittering gaze, Pauguk  
Watcheth the bed with hungry look.

VII.

THE MELTING OF THE SNOW

A SOUND of streamlets flowing, flowing ;  
A cry of winds so bleakly blowing ;  
A stir, a tumult ever growing ;  
Deep night ; and the Great Snow was going.

Underneath her death-shroud thick,  
Like a body buried quick,  
Heaved the Earth, and thrusting hands  
Crack'd the ice and brake her bands.  
Heaven, with face of watery woe,  
Watched the resurrection grow.  
All the night, bent to be free,  
In a sickening agony,

Struggled Earth. With silent tread  
From his cold seat at her head  
Rose the Frost, and northward stole  
To his cavern near the pole.  
When the bloodshot eyes of Morn  
Opened in the east forlorn,  
'Twas a dreary sight to see  
Blotted waste and watery lea,  
All the beautiful white plains  
Blurr'd with black'ning seams and stains,  
All the sides of every hill  
Scarr'd with thaw and dripping chill,  
All the cold sky scowling black  
O'er the soaking country track ;  
There a sobbing everywhere  
In the miserable air,  
And a thick fog brooding low  
O'er the black trail of the snow ;  
While the Earth, amid the gloom  
Still half buried in her tomb,



Swooning lay, and could not rise,  
With dark film upon her eyes.

In the farmhouse (where a light  
Glimmer'd feebly day and night  
From the sick-room) Red Rose heard  
Earth's awakening, and stirr'd,  
Gazed around her, and descried  
Phœbe sitting at her side,  
Knitting, while the little child,  
Sleeping on the pillow, smiled.  
Little Phœbe's face was still,  
Calm with quiet strength and will.  
And the lamplight round her flitted  
Faintly, feebly, as she knitted.  
Full confession had she brought  
From Eureka's soul distraught.  
What he hid, in desperation,  
She supplied, by penetration.

So she traced from the beginning  
All the story of the sinning.  
Had her spirit felt perchance  
Just a little more romance ;  
Had the giant in her sight  
Seem'd a paragon more bright ;  
Had the married love she bore  
Been a very little more—  
Why, perchance poor Phœbe's heart  
Might have taken the man's part,  
Heaping fiercely, as is common,  
All its hate upon the woman.  
Not so Phœbe! cold and pale  
Did she listen to the tale ;  
Ne'er relenting, scarcely heeding,  
Heard the man's excusing, pleading ;  
Felt her blood boil, and her face  
Crimson for a moment's space, .  
Thinking darkly, in dismay,  
“What will Parson Pendon say?”

But at last the little soul  
Back to the sick chamber stole ;  
Saw the wanderer lying there,  
Wildly, marvellously fair ;  
Saw the little baby too  
Blinking with big eyes of blue ;  
And she murmured, with a sigh,  
"She's deceived, as well as I.  
Hers is far the bitterest blow,  
'Cause she seems to love him so."  
So thought Phoebe, calmly sitting  
By the bedside at her knitting,  
While the fog hung thick and low  
O'er the black trail of the Snow.

Thus she did her duty there,  
Tending with a bitter care  
Her sick rival ; spite her pain,  
Able, with a woman's brain,  
To discern as clear as day

On whose side the sinning lay ;  
Able to compassionate  
Her deluded rival's fate,  
All the weariness and care  
Of the fatal journey there ;  
Able to acknowledge (this  
Far the most amazing is)  
On how dull and mean a thing  
Wasted was this passioning ;  
On how commonplace a chance  
Hung the wanderer's romance ;  
Round how mere a Log did twine  
The wild tendrils of this vine.

Screen'd thus from the wintry blast,  
Droopt the Red Rose, fading fast ;  
While the White Rose, hanging near,  
Trembled in a pensive fear.  
So the snow had nearly fled,  
And upon her dying bed

Earth was quick'ning ; damp and chill  
Streamed the fog on vale and hill.  
Like a slimy crocodile  
Weltering on banks o' Nile,  
Everywhere, with muddy maw,  
Crawl'd the miserable Thaw.  
On the pond and on the stream  
Loosen'd lights began to gleam,  
And before the snow could fleet  
Drizzly rains began to beat.

Here and there upon the plain,  
'Mid the pools of thaw and rain,  
Linger'd in the dismal light  
Patches of unmelted white.  
As these melted, very slowly,  
In a quiet melancholy,  
Vacant gleams o' the clouded blue  
Through the dismal daylight flew,  
And the wind, with a shrill clang,  
Went into the west, and sang.

A sound of waters ever flowing ;  
A stir, a tumult, ever growing ;  
A gleam o' the blue, a west wind blowing ;  
Warmth, and the last snow wreath was going.

Not alone ! ah ! not alone !

Waking up with fever'd moan,  
Red Rose started and looked round,  
Listening for a voice, a sound,  
And the skeleton, Pauguk,  
Crouching silent in his nook,  
Panted, like a famish'd thing,  
In the very act to spring.

'Twas at sunset ; on the bed  
Crimson shafts of light were shed,  
And the face, famish'd and thin,  
Flash'd to sickly flame therein,  
While the eyes, with fevered glare,  
Sought a face they saw not there.

Then she moan'd, and with a cry,  
Beckoning little Phœbe nigh,  
Whisper'd ; but the words she said  
Perish'd uninterpreted.

Still, in bitterest distress,  
Clinging to poor Phœbe's dress,  
With wild gestures, she in vain  
Tried to make her meaning plain.

Then did little Phœbe see  
How the face changed suddenly !  
For invisible Pauguk,

Creeping swiftly from his nook,  
Stood erect, and hung the head  
O'er the woman on the bed.

Still the woman, glaring round,  
Listen'd for a voice, a sound,  
Crying wildly o'er and o'er,  
With her great eyes on the door.

Pale, affrighted, and aghast,  
Phœbe understood at last—

Knew the weary wanderer cried  
To behold *him* ere she died ;  
So, without a word of blame,  
Phœbe called him, and he came.

The sun was set, the night was growing,  
Softly the wind o' the west was blowing,  
The gates of heaven were overflowing ;  
With the last snow Red Rose was going.



VIII.

THE LAST LOOK.

To the bedside, white and quaking,  
Came Eureka, with a groan,  
Conscience-stricken now, and taking  
Her thin hand into his own.  
At the touch she kindled, rallied,  
With a look of gentle grace ;  
Clung about him deathly pallid,  
And, uplooking in his face,  
*Smiled !* Ah, God ! that smile of parting  
From her soul's dim depths upstarting !  
'Twas a smile of awful beauty,  
Full of fatal love and duty ;

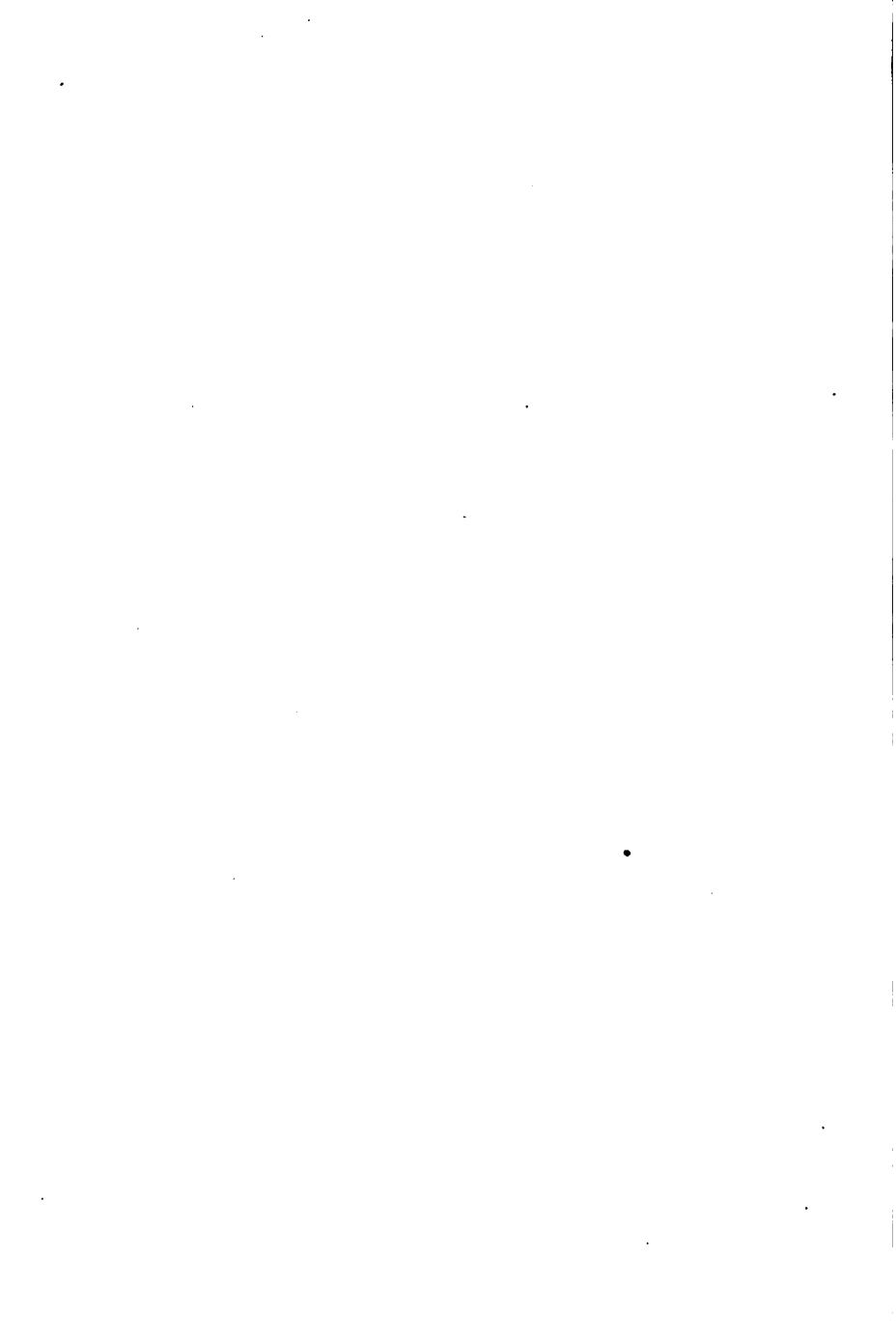
Such a smile as haunts for ever  
Any being but a beaver.  
Ev'n Eureka's stolid spirit  
Was half agonized to bear it.  
Smiling thus, and softly crooning  
Words he could not understand,  
Sank she on the pillow, swooning,  
Clutching still her hero's hand.

Silent Spirits, shapes that love her,  
Is she resting? is all over?  
Nay; for while Eureka, quaking,  
Heart-sick, soul-sick to behold her,  
From the bed her worn form taking,  
Leans her head upon his shoulder;  
Once again, the spirit flying,  
With a last expiring ray,  
Waves a message, dimly dying,  
From its tenement of clay.  
Those great eyes upon him looking,  
Not reproaching, not rebuking,

Brighten into bliss—perceiving  
Nought of shame or of deceiving :  
Only for the last time seeing  
Her great Chief, a god-like being ;  
Only happy, all at rest,  
To be dying—on his breast.

See ! her hand points upward, slowly,  
With an awful grace and holy,  
And her eyes are saying clearly,  
“ Master, lord, beloved so dearly,  
We shall meet, with souls grown fonder,  
In God’s happy prairies yonder ;  
Where no Snow falls ; where, for ever,  
Flows the shining Milky River,  
On whose banks, divinely glowing,  
Shapes like ours are coming, going,  
In the happy star-dew moving,  
Silent, smiling, loved, and loving !  
Fare thee well, till then, my Master ! ”

Hark, her breath comes fainter, faster,  
While, in love man cannot measure,  
    Kissing her white warrior's hand,  
She sinks, with one great smile of pleasure—  
    Last flash upon the blackening brand!



## Epilogue.



## EPILOGUE.

In a dark corner of the burial-place,  
Where sleep apart the creatures of red race,  
Red Rose was laid, cold, beautiful, and dead,  
With all the great white Snow above her bed.  
And soon the tiny partner of her quest,  
The little babe, was laid upon her breast ;  
For, though the heart of Phœbe had been kind,  
And sought to save the infant left behind,  
It wither'd when the mother's kiss withdrew—  
The Red Rose faded, and the Blossom too.  
There sleeps their dust, but 'neath another sky,  
More kind than this, their Spirits sleeping lie.

Sleeping, or waking ? *There*, with eyes tear-wet,  
Is her soul homeless ? doth she wander yet,



Silent by those still pathways, with bent head,  
Still listening, listening, for her warrior's tread ?  
It came not, comes not—tho' the ages roll,  
Still with that life-long hunger in her soul,  
She must wait on, and thousand others too,  
If waking Immortality be true.  
But, no ; God giveth his belovèd sleep ;  
Rose of the wilderness, may thine be deep !  
Not near the white man's happy Death-domains,  
But in the red man's mighty hunting-plains ;  
Amid the harmless shades of flocks and herds,  
Amid the hum of bees, the song of birds,  
With fields and woods all round, and skies above  
Dark as thine eyes, and deathless as thy love !

Here ends my tale ; what further should I state ?  
Save that poor Phœbe soon forgave her mate,  
As small white wives forgive ; with words out-  
spoken  
The peace was patch'd almost as soon as broken ;

For Phœbe argued, after a good cry,  
“ ’Tis a bad job ; but break my heart—not I !  
All the men do it—that’s a fact confess’d,  
And my great stupid’s only like the rest.  
But what’s the good of fretting more than need ?  
I’ve got the cows to mind, the hens to feed.  
I ’spose it’s dreadful, but ’tis less a sin  
Than if the wench had a white woman’s skin ! ”  
Oft at his head her mocking shafts she aim’d,  
While by the hearth he hung the head ashamed,  
Pricking his moral hide right thro’ and thro’,  
As virtuous little wives so well can do,  
Till out he swagger’d, cursing, sorely hit,  
And puzzled by the little woman’s wit.  
Indeed, for seasons of domestic strife,  
She kept this rod in pickle all her life.

As for Eureka, why, he felt, of course,  
Some conscience-prick, some tremor of remorse,  
Not deep enough to cause him many groans,

Or keep the fat from growing on his bones.  
He throve, he prosper'd, was esteem'd by all,—  
At fifty, he was broad as he was tall ;  
Loved much his pipe and glass, and at the inn  
Spake oft—an oracle of double chin.  
Did he forget her ? Never ! Often, while  
He sat and puff'd his pipe with easy smile,  
Surveying fields and orchards from the porch,  
And far away the little village church,  
While all seem'd peaceful—earth, and air, and  
sky,—  
A twinkle came into his fish-like eye;  
“Poor critter !” sigh'd he, as a cloud he blew,  
“She was a splendid figure, and that's true !”

## NOTES.

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P. 209.

“Puffing cheeks and fat hands *spreaning*.”

The Printer's Devil queries this, but he does not know the Old Poets. See (*e.g.*) Michael Drayton's “Moses' Birth and Miracles” — “And *spreans* the pretty hands.”

P. 213.

“'Tis the Winter, Peboan.”

See the American-Indian Mythology. “Peboan” is the personification of extreme Cold.

P. 215.

“Pauguk, the Skeleton.”

In the same mythology, Pauguk is, as represented in the poem, the Indian spirit of DEATH.



BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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Now Ready, the Fourth Edition of

# SAINT ABE:

A Tale of Salt Lake City.

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## TESTIMONIES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

### I. FROM P———T G——T, U.S.

Smart. Polygamy is Greek for Secesh. Guess Brigham will have to make tracks.

### II. FROM R. W. E——N, BOSTON, U.S.

Adequate expression is rare. I had fancied the oracles were dumb, and had returned with a sigh to the enervating society of my friends in Boston, when your book reached me. To think of it! In this very epoch, at this very day, poetry has been secreting itself silently and surely, and suddenly the whole ocean of human thought is illumined by the accumulated phosphorescence of a subtle and startling poetic life. . . . Your work is the story of Polygamy written in colossal cipher for the study of all forthcoming ages. Triflers will call you a caricaturist, empty solemnities will deem you a jester. Fools! who miss the pathetic symbolism of Falstaff, and deem the Rabelaisian epos fit food for mirth. . . . I read it from first page to last with solemn thoughts too deep for tears. I class you already with the creators, with Shakespeare, Dante, Whitman, Ellery Channing, and myself.

### III. FROM W———T W———N, WASHINGTON, U.S.

- I Our own feuillage ;  
A leaf from the sweating branches of these States ;  
A fallen symbol, I guess, vegetable, living, human ;  
A heart-beat from the hairy breast of a man.

- 2 The Salon contents me not ;  
 The fine feathers of New England damsels content me not ;  
 The ways of snobs, the falsettos of the primo tenore, the legs  
 of Lydia Thomson's troupe of blondes, content me not ;  
 Nor tea-drinking, nor the twaddle of Mr. Secretary Harlan,  
 nor the loafers of the hotel bar, nor Sham, nor Long-  
 fellow's Village Blacksmith.
- 3 But the Prairies content me ;  
 And the Red Indian dragging along his squaw by the scruff of  
 the neck ;  
 And the bones of mules and adventurous persons in Bitter  
 Creek ;  
 And the oaths of pioneers, and the ways of the unwashed,  
 large, undulating, majestic, virile, strong of scent, all  
 these content me.
- 4 Utah contents me ;  
 The City by the margin of the great Salt Lake contents me ;  
 And to have many wives contents me ;  
 Blessed is he who has a hundred wives, and peoples the  
 solitudes of these States.
- 5 Great is Brigham ;  
 Great is polygamy, great is monogamy, great is polyandry,  
 great is license, great is right, and great is wrong ;  
 And I say again that wrong is every whit as good as right, and  
 not one jot better ;  
 And I say further there is no such thing as wrong, nor any  
 such thing as right, and that neither are accountable, and  
 that both exist only by allowance.
- 6 O I am wonderful ;  
 And the world, and the sea, and joy and sorrow, and sense  
 and nonsense, all content me ;  
 And this book contents me, with its feuillage from the City of  
 many wives.

#### IV. FROM ELDER F——K E——s, OF MT. L——N, U.S.

An amusing attempt to show that polygamy is a social failure.  
 None can peruse it without perceiving at once that the author  
 secretly inclines to the ascetic tenets of Shakerism.

#### V. FROM BROTHER T. H. N——s, O——A C——K.

After perusing this subtle study, who can doubt that Free Love  
 is the natural human condition ? The utter selfishness of the

wretched monogamist-hero repels and sickens us ; nor can we look with anything but disgust on the obtusity of the heroine, in whom the author vainly tries to awaken interest. It is quite clear that the reconstruction of Utah on O—a C—k principles would yet save the State from the crash which is impending.

#### VI. FROM E—A F—NH—M, OF S——N ISLAND.

If *Polygamy* is to continue, then, I say, let *Polyandry* flourish ! Woman is the sublimer Being, the subtler Type, the more delicate Mechanism, and strictly speaking *needs* many pendants of the inferior or masculine Type to fulfil her mission in perfect comfort. Shall Brigham Young, a mere Man, have sixteen wives, and shall one wretched piece of humanity content *me*, that supreme Fact, a *perfect Woman*, highest and truest of beings under GOD ? No ; if these things be tolerated, I claim for each Woman, in the name of Light and Law, twenty ministering attendants of the lower race ; and the day is near when, if this boon, or any other boon we like to ask, be denied us, it will be *taken with a strong hand* !

#### VII. FROM T—S C——E, ESQ., CHELSEA, ENGLAND.

The titanic humour of the Conception does not blind me to the radical falseness of the Teaching, wherein, as I shall show you presently, you somewhat resemble the miserable Homunculi of our own literary Wagners ; for if I rightly conceive, you would tacitly and by inference urge that it is expressly part of the Divine Thought that the *Ewigweibliche*, or Woman-Soul, should be *happy*. Now Woman's *mundane* unhappiness, as I construe, comes of her Inadequacy ; it is the stirring within her of the Infinite against the Finite, a struggle of the spark upward, of the lower to the higher Symbol. Will Woman's Rights Agitators, and Monogamy, and Political Tomfoolery, do what Millinery has failed to do, and waken one Female to the sense of divine Function ? It is not *happiness* I solicit for the Woman-Soul, but *Identity* ; and the prerogative of Identity is great work, Adequacy, pre-eminent fulfilment of the Function ; woman in this country of rags and shams being buried quick under masses of Sophistication and Upholstery, oblivious of her divine duty to increase the population and train the young masculine Idea starward. I do not care if the wives of Deseret are pale, or faint, or uncultured, or unhappy ; it is enough for me to know that they have a numerous progeny and believe in Deity or the Divine Essence ; and I will not conclude this letter without recording my conviction that yonder man, Brigham Young by name, is perhaps the clearest Intellect now brooding on this planet ; that Friedrich was royaller but not greater, and that Bismarck is no more than his equal ; and that he, this American, few in words, mark you, but great in deeds, has decided a more stupendous



Question than ever puzzled the strength of either of those others,—the Question of the Sphere and Function in modern life of the ever agitating FEMININE PRINCIPLE. If furthermore, as I have ever held, the test of clearness of intellect and greatness of soul be *Success*, at any price and under any circumstances, none but a transcendental Windbag or a pedantic Baccalaureus will doubt my assertion that Young is a stupendous intellectual, ethical, and political Force—a Master-Spirit—a Colossal Being, a moral Architect of sublime cunning—as such to be revered by every right-thinking *Man* under the Sun.

#### VIII. FROM J——N R——N, ESQ., LONDON.

I am not generally appreciated in my own country, because I frequently change my views about religion, art, architecture, poetry, and things in general. Most of my early writings are twaddle, but my present opinions are all valuable. I think this poem, with its nervous Saxon Diction, its subtle humour, its tender pathos and piteousness, the noblest specimen of narrative verse of modern times; and indeed I know not where to look, out of the pages of Chaucer, for an equally successful blending of human laughter and ethereal mystery. At the same time, the writer scarcely does justice to the subject on the æsthetic side. A City where the streets are broad and clean and well-watered, the houses surrounded by gardens full of fruit and flowers; where the children, with shining, clean-washed faces, curtsy to the Philosophers in the public places; where there are no brothels and no hells; where life runs fresh, free, and unpolluted,—such a City, I say, can hardly be the symbol of feminine degradation. More than once, tired of publishing my prophetic warnings in the *Daily Telegraph*, I have thought of bending my weary footsteps to the new Jerusalem; and I might have carried out my intention long ago, if I had had a less profound sense of my own unfitness for the duties of a Saint.

#### IX. FROM M——W A——D, ESQ., ENGLAND.

Your poem possesses a certain rough primitive humour, though it appears to me deficient in the higher graces of *sweetness* and *light*. St. Paul would have entirely objected to the monogamical inference drawn in your epilogue; and the fact that you draw any such inference at all is to me a distressing proof that your tendency is to the Philistinism of those authors who write for the British Matron. I fear you have not read “*Merope*.”

FOURTH EDITION, enlarged and revised. Crown 8vo, 5s.

# SAINT ABE:

A Tale of Salt Lake City.

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## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

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### From the "GRAPHIC."

"Such vigorous, racy, determined satire has not been met with for many a long day. It is at once fresh and salt as the sea. . . . The humour is exquisite, and as regards literary execution, the work is masterly."

### From the "PALL MALL GAZETTE."

"Although in a striking address to Chaucer the author intimates an expectation that Prudery may turn from his pages, and though his theme is certainly a delicate one, there is nothing in the book that a modest man may not read without blinking, and therefore, we suppose, no modest woman. On the other hand, the whole poem is marked with so much natural strength, so much of the inborn faculties of literature—(though they are wielded in a light, easy, trifling way)—that they take possession of our admiration as of right. The chief characteristics of the book are mastery of verse, strong and simple diction, delicate, accurate description of scenery, and that quick and forcible discrimination of character which belongs to men of dramatic genius. This has the look of exaggerated praise. We propose, therefore, to give one or two large samples of the author's quality, leaving our readers to judge from them whether we are not probably right. If they turn to the book and read it through, we do not doubt that they will agree with us."

### From the "ILLUSTRATED REVIEW."

"The tale, however, is not to be read from reviews. . . . The variety of interest, the versatility of fancy, the richness of description with which the different lays and cantos are replete, will preclude the possibility of tediousness. To open the book is to read it to the end. It is like some Greek comedy in its shifting scenes, its vivid pictures, its rapidly-passing 'dramatis personæ' and supernumeraries. . . . The author of 'St. Abe,' who can write like this, may do more if he will, and even found a new school of realistic and satirical poetry."

**From the "DAILY NEWS."**

"If the author of a 'Tale of Salt Lake City' be not a new poet, he is certainly a writer of exceedingly clever and effective verses. They have the ring of originality, and they indicate ability to produce something still more remarkable than this very remarkable little piece. It merits a place among works which every one reads with genuine satisfaction. It is a piece which subserves one of the chief ends of poetry, that of telling a tale in an unusually forcible and pleasant way. . . . If it be the author's purpose to furnish a new argument against polygamous Mormons, by showing the ridiculous side of their system, he has perfectly succeeded. The extracts we have given show the varied, fluent, and forcible character of his verse. None who read about Saint Abe and his Seven Wives can fail to be amused and to be gratified alike by the manner of the verse and the matter of the tale."

**From the "SCOTSMAN."**

"This book does not need much commendation, but it deserves a great deal. The author of 'The Biglow Papers' might have written it, but there are passages which are not unlike Bret Harte; and him we suspect. The authorship, however, may be left out of notice. Men inquire who has written a good book, that they may honour him; but if his name be never heard, the book is none the less prized. In design and construction this work has high merit. It is a good story and it is good poetry. The author is a humorist and a satirist, and he has here displayed all his qualities lavishly."

**From the "NONCONFORMIST."**

"Amazingly clever. . . . Besides, its pure tone deserves warm recognition. The humour is never coarse. There is a high delicacy, which is sufficient to colour and sweeten the whole, as the open spring breeze holds everything in good savour."

**From the "SPECTATOR."**

"We believe that the new book which has just appeared, 'St. Abe and His Seven Wives,' will paralyze Mormon resistance far more than any amount of speeches in Congress or messages from President Grant, by bringing home to the minds of the millions the ridiculous-diabolic side of the peculiar institution. The canto called 'The Last Epistle of St. Abe to the Polygamists,' with its humorous narrative of the way in which the Saint, sealed to seven wives, fell in love with one, and thenceforward could not abide the jealousy felt by the other six, will do more to weaken the last defence of Mormonism—that after all, the women like it—than a whole ream of narratives about the discontent in Utah. Thousands on whom narrative and argument would make little or no impression, will feel how it must be when many wives with burning

hearts watch the husband's love growing for one, when the favourite is sick unto death, and how 'they set their lips and sneered at me and watched the situation,' and will understand that the first price paid for polygamy is the suppression of love, and the second, the slavery of women. The letter in which the first point is proved is too long for quotation, and would be spoiled by extracts; but the second could hardly be better proved than in these humorous lines. . . . The descriptions of Saint Abe and his Seven Wives will be relished by roughs in California as much as by the self-indulgent philosophers of Boston. . . . Pope would have been proud, we fancy, of these terrible lines, uttered by a driver whose *fiancée* has just been beguiled away by a Mormon saint."

**From the "ATHENÆUM."**

"'Saint Abe and his Seven Wives' has a freshness and an originality, altogether wanting in Mr. Longfellow's new work, 'The Divine Tragedy.' In quaint and forcible language—language admirably suited to the theme—the author takes us to the wondrous city of the saints, and describes its inhabitants in a series of graphic sketches. The hero of the story is Saint Abe, or Abraham Clewson, and in giving us his history the author has really given us the inner life of the Mormon settlement. In his pages we see the origin of the movement, the reasons why it has increased, the internal weakness of the system, and the effect it produces on its adherents. We are introduced to the saints, whom we see among their pastures, in their homes, in their promenades, and in their synagogue."

**From the "FREEMAN."**

"A remarkable poem. . . . The production is anonymous, but whoever the author may be there can be no question that he is a poet, and one of vast and varied powers. The inner life of Mormonism is portrayed with a caustic humour equal to anything in 'The Biglow Papers;' and were it not for the exquisite elegance of the verse we should think that some parts of the poem were written by Robert Browning. The hero of the poem is a Mormon, who fares so badly as a polygamist that he elopes with one of his seven wives—the one whom he really loves; and the story is a most effective exposure of the evils which necessarily attach to polygamy."

**From the "WEEKLY REVIEW."**

"There can be no doubt that it is worthy of the author of 'The Biglow Papers.' Since that work was published, we have received many humorous volumes from across the Atlantic, but nothing equal to 'St. Abe.' As to its form, it shows that Mr. Lowell has been making advances in the poetic art; and the substance of it is as strong as anything in the entire range of English satirical literature."

From the "**BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW.**"

"The writer has an easy mastery over various kinds of metre, and a felicity of easy rhyming which is not unworthy of our best writers of satire. . . . The prevailing impression of the whole is of that easy strength which does what it likes with language and rhythm. . . . The style is light and playful, with admirable touches of fine discrimination and rich humour; but the purpose is earnest. . . . The book is a very clever and a very wholesome one. It is one of those strong, crushing, dramatic satires, which do more execution than a thousand arguments."

From "**TEMPLE BAR.**"

"It is said to be by Lowell. Truly if America has more than one writer who can write in such a rich vein of satire, humour, pathos, and wit, as we have here, England must look to her laurels. . . . This is poetry of a high order. Would that in England we had humorists who could write as well. But with Thackeray our last writer of humour left us."

From the "**WESTMINSTER REVIEW.**"

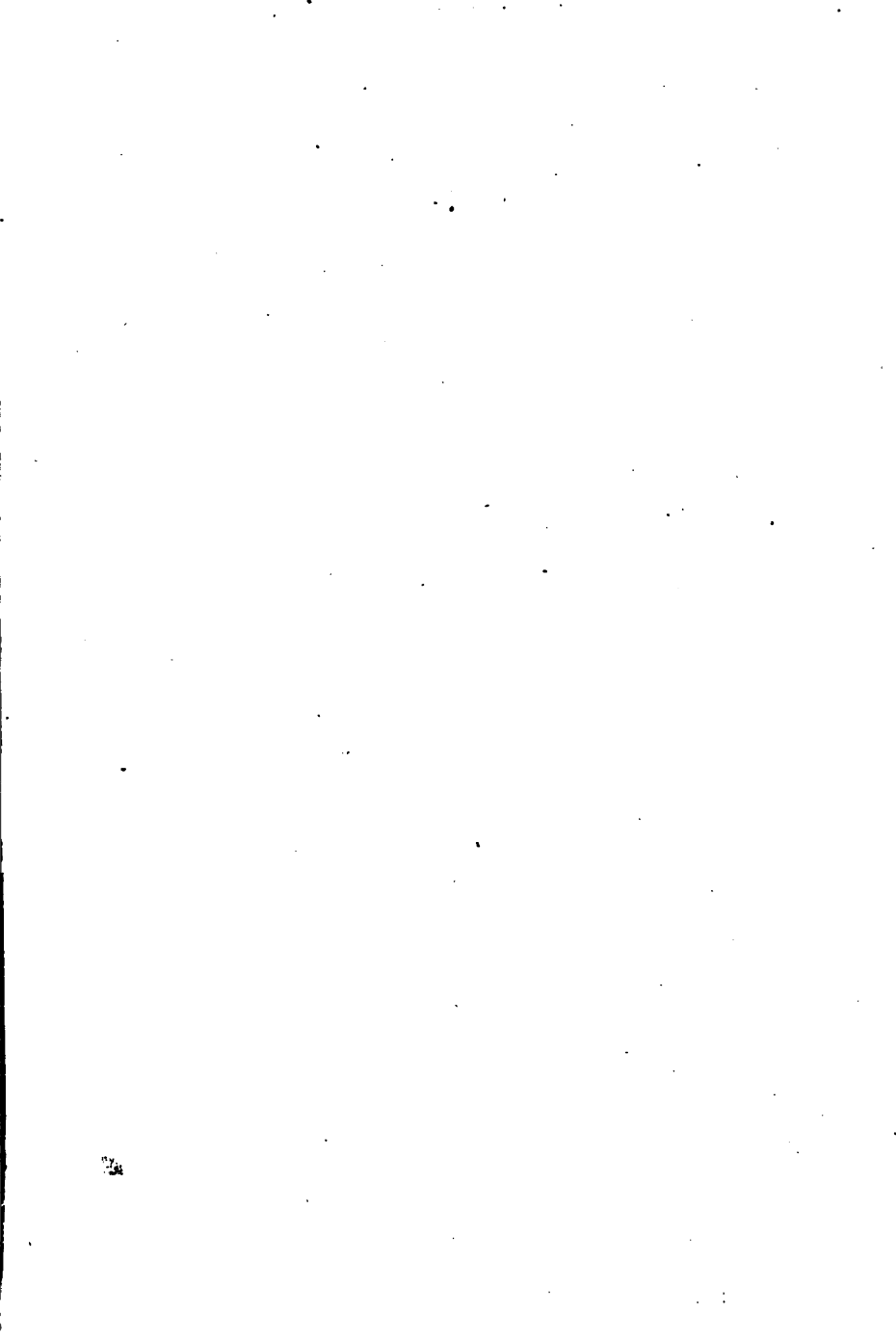
"'Saint Abe and his Seven Wives' may lay claim to many rare qualities. The author possesses simplicity and directness. To this he adds genuine humour and intense dramatic power. Lastly, he has contrived to give a local flavour, something of the salt of the Salt Lake to his characters, which enables us to thoroughly realise them. . . . We will not spoil the admirable canto 'Within the Synagogue' by any quotation, which however long cannot possibly do it justice. We will merely say that this one bit is worth the price of the whole book. In the author we recognise a true poet with an entirely original vein of humour."

From the "**MANCHESTER GUARDIAN.**"

"It is thoroughly American, now rising into a true imaginative intensity, but oftener falling into a satirical vein, dealing plainly enough with the plague-spots of Salt Lake society and its wily, false prophets. . . . Like most men capable of humour, the author has command of a sweeter and more harmonious manner. Indeed, the beautiful descriptive and lyrical fragments stand in vivid and refreshing relief to the homely staple of the poem."

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